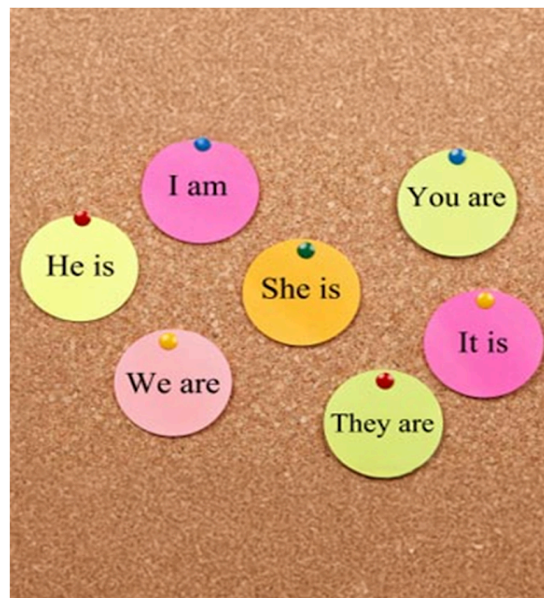


English Grammar

STUDY NOTES

Articles (II)



OMISSION OF ARTICLES

In some cases, articles are omitted altogether. This often happens with **plural nouns**, **uncountable nouns**, and **proper nouns**.

Examples:

Water is essential for life. (Uncountable noun, no article needed.)

Cats are independent animals. (Plural noun, no article required.)

When to Omit Articles:

- With general statements or when referring to things in a broad, non-specific way:

Examples:

Life is unpredictable. (Life in general, not a specific life.)

Books are a source of knowledge. (All books in general.)

- Before some places like **home**, **work** or **school**:

Examples:

I go to **school** every day. (No article needed)

I am returning **home** tonight. (No article needed)

Exam- oriented questions based on the above rules:

Omission with Uncountable Nouns

Incorrect: The water is essential for life.

Correct: Water is essential for life.

Explanation: "Water" is an uncountable noun in this context, so no article is needed to refer to it generally.

Omission with Plural Nouns

Incorrect: The cats are independent animals.

Correct: Cats are independent animals.

Explanation: Since "cats" is a plural noun used in a general sense, an article is not required.

Omission in General Statements

Incorrect: The life is unpredictable.

Correct: Life is unpredictable.

Explanation: When talking about "life" in a broad, general sense, no article is needed.

Omission with Plural Nouns in Broad Sense

Incorrect: The books are a source of knowledge.

Correct: Books are a source of knowledge.

Explanation: "Books" refers to all books in general, so no article is required.

Omission Before Certain Places (e.g., School)

Incorrect: I go to the school every day.

Correct: I go to school every day.

Explanation: No article is needed before "school" when referring to it as a general place.

Omission Before Certain Places (e.g., Home)

Incorrect: I am returning to the home tonight.

Correct: I am returning home tonight.

Explanation: When referring to "home" in a broad, non-specific sense, no article is needed.

RULES FOR USING ARTICLES

Understanding Article Usage

Rule II

An article is placed before an adjective when qualifying a noun



Rule I

An article is placed before a noun

Rule I: An article is placed before a noun.

Examples:

There is **a girl** on the floor.

I bought **an umbrella**.

Rule II: An article is placed before an adjective in cases when a noun is qualified by an adjective.

Examples:

She is **a very good** singer.

This is **an extremely confusing** question.

Exam- oriented questions based on the above rules:

Article Before a Noun

Incorrect: There is girl on the floor.

Correct: There is a girl on the floor.

Explanation: "A" is needed before "girl" because it is a singular, countable noun, and the sentence refers to one girl in a general sense.

Article Before an Adjective Qualifying a Noun

Incorrect: She is very good singer.

Correct: She is a very good singer.

Explanation: The article "a" should be placed before "very good singer," as "singer" is the main noun and is qualified by the adjective phrase "very good."

Key Differences Between "A/An" and "The":

"A" / "An" (Indefinite Article)	"The" (Definite Article)
Refers to a non-specific noun or any member of a group	Refers to a specific noun known to both the speaker and the listener
Used for introducing something for the first time	Used when referring back to something already mentioned
Example: A dog barked at me.	Example: The dog barked again.



LET'S PRACTICE

1. Fill in the blanks

- A. It is difficult to produce Newton.
- B. We will be there for hour.
- C. She kept Bible on the table.
- D. I like to watch Moon.
- E. She has One-rupee coin.

Solutions:

- A. It is difficult to produce **a** Newton.

Explanation: Here, **A** is used before a proper noun to make it a common noun, so **a** before **Newton** means great scientist in general.

- B. We will be there for **an** hour.

Explanation: Here, **hour** starts with a consonant but has a vowel sound, so **an** is used before **hour**.

- C. She kept **the** Bible on the table.

Explanation: **The** is used for unique things, so we use **the** before **Bible**.

- D. I like to watch **the** moon.

Explanation: **Moon** is only one and unique, so we use **the** before **moon**.

- E. She has **a** one-rupee coin.

Explanation: The word **one** starts with a vowel but has a consonant sound, so we use **a** before **one-rupee**.

2. Rewrite these sentences correctly.

- A. **Incorrect:** I saw **a** sun rising over the mountains.

Correct: I saw **the** sun rising over the mountains.

Explanation: "The sun" is a unique entity, so the definite article "**the**" should be used instead of the indefinite article "**a**".

- B. **Incorrect:** She is **the** teacher who teaches **a** math.

Correct: She is **the** teacher who teaches **math**.

Explanation: "Math" is an **uncountable noun**, so it doesn't require an article. Using "**a**" here is incorrect.

- C. **Incorrect:** I need **the** advice on how to handle this situation.

Correct: I need **advice** on how to handle this situation.

Explanation: "Advice" is also an **uncountable noun**, so "**the**" should not be used unless referring to a specific piece of advice previously mentioned.

D. Incorrect: She adopted an cat from the shelter.

Correct: She adopted **a cat** from the shelter.

Explanation: "Cat" starts with a consonant sound, so the article "**a**" should be used, not "**an**".

E. Incorrect: It was a honour to meet you.

Correct: It was **an honour** to meet you.

Explanation: Although "honour" starts with the letter "**h**," it is pronounced with a vowel sound, so "**an**" should be used instead of "**a**."

3. Fill in the blanks. (Do it yourself)

- A. I saw ___ dog in the park yesterday. ___ dog was very friendly.
- B. _____ information you gave me was very helpful.
- C. Can you pass me ___ salt, please?
- D. There is ___ apple and ___ banana on the table.
- E. ___ Earth revolves around ___ Sun.