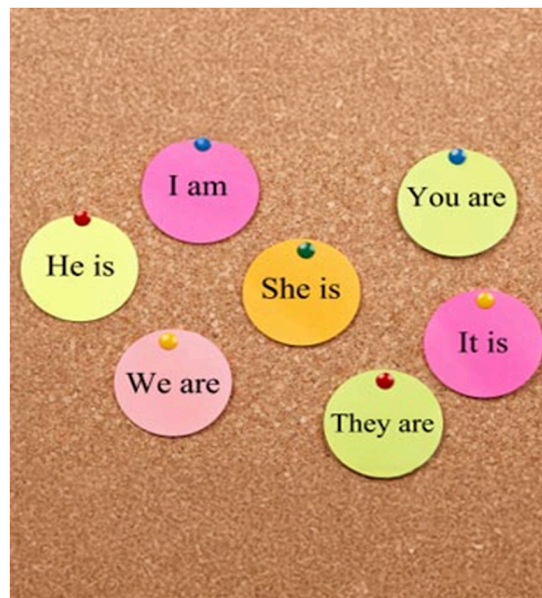


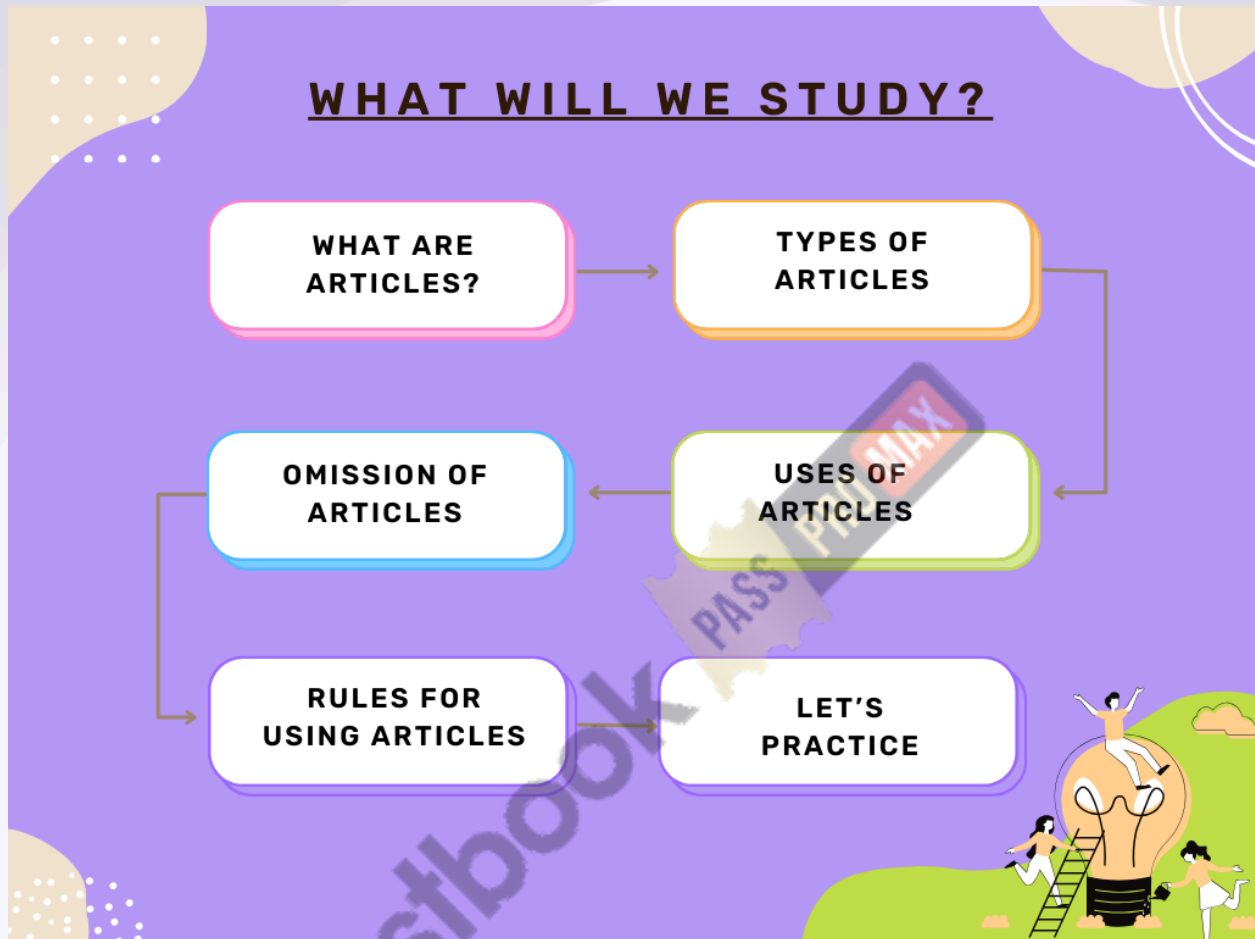
English Grammar

STUDY NOTES

Articles (I)



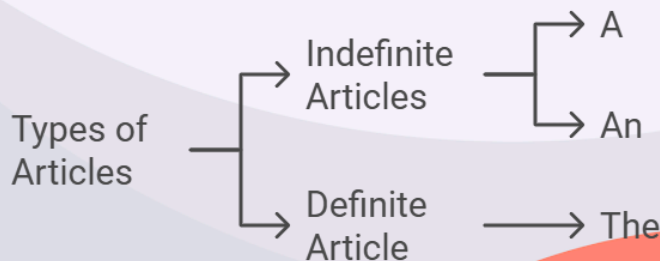
ARTICLES I



WHAT ARE ARTICLES?

Articles are words used to define a noun as specific or unspecific. In English, there are two types of articles: **definite** and **indefinite**. Understanding when and how to use them is essential for clear and accurate communication. Below is a breakdown of the types and uses of articles.

TYPES OF ARTICLES AND ITS USES



1. Indefinite Articles: "A" and "An"

- Indefinite articles are used to refer to a **singular countable noun** or something that hasn't been mentioned before.

Examples:

Raghav is **an** engineer.

A magician came to my school yesterday.

Use of A, AN

- **A** is used before a singular, countable noun that begins with a **consonant sound**.

Examples:

A dog was barking outside. (Refers to any dog, not a specific one.)

A car is parked near the gate. (Any car, not a particular one.)

- **An** is used before a singular, countable noun that begins with a **vowel sound** (a, e, i, o, u).

Examples:

An apple fell from the tree.

I saw **an Australian**.

- Both are used in the numerical sense of one.

Examples:

Do you have **an Atlas**?

There is **a book** on the table.

- Both are used in the sense of 'every'.

Examples:

She purchased milk for Rs. 50 **a litre**.

The speed of this car is 60 km **an hour**.

- Both are used before a **proper noun** to make it a **common noun**.

Examples:

She is **a** Lata Mangeshkar. (great singer)

He is **an** Ambani. (Rich person)

Exceptions: Sound Dominance

- **Case I:** If a singular countable noun that begins with a **consonant** has a **vowel** sound, then we use **An** before that noun.

Examples:

He is **an honest** man.

Sushil is **an MLA**.

This is **an umbrella**.

- **Case II:** If a singular countable noun begins with a **vowel** but has a **consonant** sound, then we use **A** before that noun.

Examples:

A European came to visit Agra.

This is **a university** in Mumbai.

2. Definite Article: "The"

- The definite article, "**the**," is used to refer to **specific nouns** that are already known to the speaker and the listener, or when it's clear which particular thing is being talked about.

Examples:

- **The book** on the table is mine. (Referring to a specific book that both speaker and listener are aware of.)
- **The sun** rises in the east. (There is only one sun, so it is a specific entity.)

Use of "The"

- When we refer to something that is only one of their own kind.

Examples:

The sky is blue.

The moon is bright.

- When we refer again to a word that has been mentioned earlier, then we use **the**.

Examples:

I saw a lady. **The lady** was in a black saree.

We have a cat. **The cat** is very cute.

- We use **the** before superlative adjectives.

Examples:

He is **the tallest** boy in the class.

The best singer was awarded yesterday.

- We use **the** when we talk about a particular person or thing.

Examples:

The boy who is dancing is my brother.

The book that you are reading was originally written in French.

- We use **the** when a singular noun is used to represent the whole class of things or animals to which it belongs.

Examples:

The lotus is our national flower.

The dolphin is a very intelligent animal.

- We also use **the** with ordinal numbers.

Examples:

She lives on **the fourth** floor.

He became **the second** winner in the race.

- We use **the** when we talk about certain geographical locations.

Examples:

The Ganga flows from India to Bangladesh.

The Aravali range is the oldest mountain range in India.

- We use **the** before proper adjective when '**nation**' or '**people**' is understood.

Examples:

The British ruled India for many years.

The Aryans mainly inhabited the northern part of India.

- **The** is also used before the name of directions.

Examples:

The sun rises in **the east**.

India is in **the south** of China.

- **The** is used before common nouns to show unit of measure.

Examples:

Oranges are sold by **the dozen**.

Milk is sold by **the litre**.

Exam- oriented questions based on the above rules:

Indefinite Articles: "A" and "An"

Incorrect: I saw a elephant in the zoo.

Correct: I saw an elephant in the zoo.

Explanation: "An" is used before nouns that start with a vowel sound; "elephant" begins with an "e" vowel sound.

Use of "A" with Consonant Sound

Incorrect: An dog was barking outside.

Correct: A dog was barking outside.

Explanation: "A" is used before nouns starting with a consonant sound, like "dog."

Use of "An" with Vowel Sound

Incorrect: I met a engineer at the conference.

Correct: I met an engineer at the conference.

Explanation: "An" is used before nouns with vowel sounds, such as "engineer."

Both Indefinite Articles Used in a Numerical Sense

Incorrect: Do you have a Atlas in your collection?

Correct: Do you have an Atlas in your collection?

Explanation: "An" is used because "Atlas" begins with a vowel sound, and here it represents "one" Atlas.

Both Indefinite Articles in the Sense of "Every"

Incorrect: She purchased milk for Rs. 50 an litre.

Correct: She purchased milk for Rs. 50 a litre.

Explanation: "A" is used before "litre" as it has a consonant sound, referring to "every litre."

Indefinite Articles Before Proper Nouns as Common Nouns

Incorrect: He is an Ambani.

Correct: He is a Ambani.

Explanation: "A" is used because "Ambani" starts with a consonant sound, referring to any wealthy person like Ambani.

Exception: Sound Dominance with Vowel Sound but Consonant

Incorrect: She is an university student.

Correct: She is a university student.

Explanation: Although "university" starts with a vowel letter, it has a consonant sound, so "a" is correct.

Exception: Sound Dominance with Consonant but Vowel

Incorrect: He is a honest person.

Correct: He is an honest person.

Explanation: "Honest" begins with a silent "h," creating a vowel sound, so "an" is appropriate.

Definite Article "The" for Specific Entities

Incorrect: Sun rises in east.

Correct: The sun rises in the east.

Explanation: "The" is used for unique entities known to everyone, like "the sun" and "the east."

Definite Article for Previously Mentioned Nouns

Incorrect: I saw a dog. Dog was barking.

Correct: I saw a dog. The dog was barking.

Explanation: "The" is used to refer back to "dog" already mentioned.

Definite Article with Superlative Adjectives

Incorrect: She is smartest in her class.

Correct: She is the smartest in her class.

Explanation: "The" precedes superlative adjectives like "smartest."

Definite Article with Particular People or Things

Incorrect: Boy who won the prize is my brother.

Correct: The boy who won the prize is my brother.

Explanation: "The" specifies a particular "boy," known to both speaker and listener.

Definite Article Representing a Class of Things or Animals

Incorrect: Dolphin is very intelligent.

Correct: The dolphin is very intelligent.

Explanation: "The" is used before "dolphin" to represent the species as a whole.

Definite Article with Ordinal Numbers

Incorrect: She lives on fourth floor.

Correct: She lives on the fourth floor.

Explanation: "The" is used with ordinal numbers like "fourth."

Definite Article with Geographical Locations

Incorrect: Ganga flows through India.

Correct: The Ganga flows through India.

Explanation: "The" is used before river names like "the Ganga."

Definite Article with Proper Adjectives for Nation/People

Incorrect: British ruled India for many years.

Correct: The British ruled India for many years.

Explanation: "The" is used before adjectives like "British" to refer to people.

Definite Article with Directions

Incorrect: Sun sets in west.

Correct: The sun sets in the west.

Explanation: "The" is used with directions like "the west."

Definite Article for Units of Measure

Incorrect: Bananas are sold by dozen.

Correct: Bananas are sold by the dozen.

Explanation: "The" is used to specify a unit of measure, such as "the dozen."