

The definite article is used with specific nouns, indefinite article for nonspecific.

The desserts here are delicious.

Where is **the** bathroom?

A mosquito bit me.

She's **an** author.

Definite Article

the

Indefinite Article

Before a
consonant

Before a
vowel

a

an

The Definite Article

The definite article **the** is used:

1. To refer to something we've already mentioned or has already been specified
2. When it's assumed there's only one of something
3. Before superlatives and ordinal numbers
4. Before names of monuments or geographic features (oceans, rivers, deserts, etc.)

The Indefinite Article

The indefinite article **a/an** is used:

1. When the identity of a singular noun is not known or not important
2. To show that a noun is part of a group.
3. To tell someone's profession

Use "**an**" when the next word begins with a vowel or silent "h". Use "**a**" when the next word begins with a consonant.

Examples:

I came here by taxi. The driver was very talkative. (We know it's the driver of my cab.)

The sunset was beautiful yesterday.

My house is the second one from the left.

The Great Wall of China can be seen from space.

There's a red bump where a mosquito bit me.

I'm an American citizen.

He's a doctor. She's an actress.

You're an author. You wrote this book in an hour.

You're a successful author.

A. Put the correct indefinite article (a/ an) before each noun or adjective. Remember to use the definite article “an” before a silent “h”.

1. an orange
2. _____ good idea
3. _____ answer
4. _____ blue book
5. _____ restricted area
6. _____ eye for _____ eye
7. _____ hour
8. _____ house
9. _____ old man
10. _____ adjective
11. _____ small car
12. _____ airplane

B. Put the correct article (“the”, “a”, or “an”) in each of the blank spaces.

1. I can't talk right now; I'm at the library.
2. My friend is really sick. He's in _____ hospital.
3. _____ moon rotates around _____ earth.
4. This is _____ first time this has happened.
5. My son is _____ smartest student in _____ class.
6. This man needs help! Is there _____ doctor here?
7. _____ police are looking for _____ thief that robbed this bank.
8. We visited _____ Eiffel Tower during our trip to Paris.
9. I work out all the time. I go to _____ gym across the street.
10. This sword is _____ gift from _____ king of Spain.
11. _____ Statue of Liberty is _____ symbol of America.
12. I want to be _____ professional athlete when I grow up.
13. Are you _____ student here?
14. I need _____ new refrigerator. Mine broke last night.
15. _____ young woman that was here earlier forgot her purse.

C. Complete the text below by filling in the blank spaces with either the definite article (“the”) or indefinite article (“a” or “an”).

Next Saturday, my family and I are going to 1. the zoo. My mom already bought 2. _____ tickets last week. I'm excited to see all of 3. _____ exotic animals and learn about their habitats. 4. _____ trainers that take care of 5. _____ animals have 6. _____ important job, making sure 7. _____ cages are clean and that 8. _____ animals are healthy. Some of 9. _____ species face 10. _____ risk of extinction, and that's why it's so important that we take care of 11. _____ environment. We must preserve 12. _____ natural beauty of 13. _____ planet and stop 14. _____ possible extinction of these incredible creatures.

1.5 A

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------|-------|--------|
| 1. an | 4. a | 7. an | 10. an |
| 2. a | 5. a | 8. a | 11. a |
| 3. an | 6. an; an | 9. an | 12. an |

1.5 B

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------|-------------|------------|---------|
| 1. the | 4. the | 7. The; the | 10. a; the | 13. a |
| 2. the | 5. the | 8. the | 11. The; a | 14. a |
| 3. The; the | 6. a | 9. the/ a | 12. a | 15. The |

1.5 C

- | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|------------|---------|
| 1. the | 4. The | 7. the | 10. the/ a | 13. the |
| 2. the | 5. the | 8. the | 11. the | 14. the |
| 3. the | 6. an | 9. the | 12. the | |