

# జనరల్ ఇంగ్లీష్

## ARTICLES

*Look at the following sentences.*

- Give me a pen.
- Give me an orange.
- Give me the green pen.

In (a) and (b) there are many pens and oranges, and I ask for any one of them ... for no particular pen and orange, but in (c), there is only one green pen; it is a particular green pen.

The demonstrative adjectives 'A', 'An' and 'The' are called Articles.

- ★ 'A' and 'An' are called the indefinite articles because they do not refer to a particular person or thing. They are used before countable singular nouns.
- ★ 'A' is used before words that begin with a consonant sound.  
e.g.: a ball, a historian, a doctor, a European, a one rupee coin, a uniform, a university, a universal idea, a union, a unit, a useful book, a unique thing, a SAARC country etc.
- ★ 'An' is used before words which begin with a vowel sound.  
e.g.: an actor, an egg, an ink bottle, an ornament, an umbrella, an hour, an honourable man, an heir, an MP, an ISI product, an HCL product, an SBI clerk etc.
- ★ 'The' is called the definite article because it refers to a particular person or thing. We use it when talk about something which is already known to the listener or which has been previously mentioned, introduced, or discussed.  
e.g.: I watched the movie yesterday. (The particular movie which is known to the listener / reader).

### Usage of A or An

*The indefinite article 'a' or 'an' is used ...*

- When a singular noun is mentioned for the first time and represents no particular person or thing.  
e.g.: We met a businessman yesterday.
- To represent the whole class.  
e.g.: A dog is a faithful animal. (Here it means all dogs).
- In the sense of any.  
e.g.: I want a mango. (I just want a mango, it doesn't matter which one.)
- In the sense of 'one'.  
e.g.: A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- In the sense of 'every'.  
e.g.: Dinesh earns fifty thousand rupees a month (every month).
- In exclamations.  
e.g.: What an idea!

7. To make a common noun of a proper noun.  
e.g.: My father is not a Bill Gates (He is not a millionaire).
8. In the sense of a certain person or thing.  
e.g.: There is a Mr. Rao on the line, sir. (Here, the speaker knows only the name of the person but doesn't know who he is.)

### Usage of 'The'

*The definite article 'the' is used.*

1. The names of mountain ranges, rivers, oceans, seas, gulfs, group of islands, and certain territories.  
e.g.: The Sahara, the Himalayas, the Ganges, the Pacific, etc.
2. Before the names of holy books.  
e.g.: The Gita, the Quran, the Bible, the Ramayana etc.
3. Before the names of unique things.  
e.g.: The Sky, the Sun, the Moon, the Earth etc.
4. Before a proper noun to make it a common noun.  
e.g.: Pawan Kalyan is the Rajanikanth of Tollywood. (ie, the most popular hero).
5. With superlatives.  
e.g.: The greatest , the most intelligent etc.
6. Before comparative constructions; as,  
e.g.: He is the younger of the two boys.  
The more you learn, the more you earn.
7. Before adjectives used as nouns.  
e.g.: The young should support the old.
8. Before the names of the musical instruments.  
e.g.: He plays the violin.
9. Before a singular countable common noun that represents the whole class. (In this usage it is similar to the indefinite article in its classifying function).  
e.g.: The dog is a faithful animal. (Here it means all dogs.)
- ★ But when 'man' is used as a generic noun, no article is used before it. Man is mortal.
10. Before ordinal numbers in the titles.  
e.g.: King Henry the fourth.
11. Before the ordinal numbers.  
e.g.: The first, the second etc.
12. Before the initials.  
e.g.: the UNESCO, the WHO etc.
13. Before designations.  
e.g.: The President, the General Manager etc.

14. To speak of a particular person or thing or one already referred to.  
e.g.: The man who came here yesterday is a yoga teacher.
15. To refer to the names of a whole family.  
e.g.: The Gandhis, the Tatas, the Ambanis etc.
16. Before the plural names of the countries.  
e.g.: The USA, the UK, The Netherlands.

### Omission of Article

#### *No article is used before ....*

1. The names of languages, games, metals, diseases, colours etc when they are used in a general sense.  
★ But when they are used in a specific sense, articles can be used.

<u>Telugu</u> is a beautiful language.	He works as a <u>Telugu</u> teacher.
He plays <u>cricket</u> .	He wants to buy a <u>cricket bat</u> .
<u>Gold</u> is a costly metal.	She purchased a <u>gold ring</u> .
He is suffering from <u>cancer</u> .	<u>The cancer patient</u> died yesterday.
<u>Blue</u> is my favourite colour.	<u>The blue sari</u> she wears is beautiful.

2. Before proper, material and abstract nouns used in a general sense:  
e.g.: Hyderabad is a lovely city.  
Cotton is comfortable to wear.  
★ But we can say – 'I want to wear a cotton shirt now'.  
★ Knowledge is divine.
3. The names of relations.  
e.g.: Mother is in the kitchen.  
Father has comeback.
4. The names of meals.  
e.g.: I told my wife that I would be late for dinner.  
★ But when we are referring to special meals 'the' is used.  
e.g.: The lunch at the birthday party was sumptuous.
5. School, college, church, hospital, police station, prison etc., when they are visited or used for their primary purpose.  
e.g.: He is going to college. (either to study or to teach.)  
She is going to hospital (either for treatment or as a doctor / nurse).  
★ But when the above said places are visited for other than primary purpose, the definite article is used.  
e.g.: He is going to the school (to cast his vote).  
She is going to the hospital (to meet her friend who is working there).
6. Before titles used with a proper noun.  
e.g.: Queen Elizabeth was born in 1926.

## Repetition of Article

★ The repetition of articles can change the meaning of a sentence.

i) I have a black and white dog. (Only one dog)

I have a black and a white dog. (Two dogs)

ii) The secretary and accountant is present. (Here the nouns 'secretary' and 'accountant' refer to the same person.)

The secretary and the accountant were present. (Here the repetition of the articles implies that the secretary and the accountant are different persons.)

## Direct And Indirect Speech

*Choose the correct Indirect Speech of the following sentences.*

1. Our teacher said, "Oil floats on water".

1) Our teacher said that oil floats on water.

2) Our teacher says that oil floats on water.

3) Our teacher asked if oil floats on water.

4) Our teacher told that oil floats on water.

2. Mother said to the girl, "Don't play with fire."

1) Mother told the girl to play not with fire.

2) Mother asked the girl to not play with fire.

3) Mother warned the girl not to play with fire.

4) Mother requested the girl to not play with fire.

3. Sravya said to me, "I wrote two letters to you."

1) Sravya told me that she wrote two letters to me.

2) Sravya told me that she writes two letters to me.

3) Sravya told me that she had written two letters to me.

4) Sravya told me that she has written two letters to me.

4. He said to us, "The police did not arrest the thief."

1) He told us that the police had not arrested the thief.

2) He told us that the police had not been arrested the thief.

3) He told that we the police had not arrested the thief.

4) He said to us that the police arrested the thief.

5. He said, "Yes, I am mistaken."

1) He said that yes, he was mistaken.

2) He admitted that he was mistaken.

3) He confessed that he is mistaken.

4) He admitted that I was mistaken.

6. She said, "Pragna will be reading a book."

1) She said that Pragna will have been reading a book.

2) She said that Pragna would be reading a book.

3) She told that Pragna would read a book.

4) She told him that she would be reading a book.

7. Devansh said, "I will do it now."  
 1) Devansh said that he should do it that time.  
 2) Devansh said that he would do it then.  
 3) Devansh said that I would do it then.  
 4) Devansh said that I would do it next time.

**ANSWERS**

1-1; 2-3; 3-3; 4-1; 5-2; 6-2; 7-2.

**PRACTICE TEST ON ARTICLES**

*Choose the correct option.*

1. My friend's father is ..... Indian but his mother is ..... European.  
 1) a, an                                  2) an, a                                  3) the, the                                  4) an, the
2. .... more you talk, .... less I understand.  
 1) The, the                                  2) A, a                                  3) No article, no article                  4) The, a
3. She is going to ..... police station to lodge a complaint against ..... man who has cheated her.  
 1) a, a                                  2) a, the                                  3) No article, the                          4) the, the
4. Before you leave ..... room, turn off ..... light.  
 1) the, a                                  2) a, the                                  3) a, a                                  4) the, the
5. Only ..... Shakespeare can write such ..... play.  
 1) a, a                                  2) the, a                                  3) No article, a                          4) the, the
6. .... Head Master is going to buy ..... HCL product for us.  
 1) the, a                                  2) a, the                                  3) the, an                                  4) No article, a
7. .... English is ..... easy language for ..... English.  
 1) An, an, an                                  2) The, an, the                                  3) No article, an, the                          4) The, an, no article
8. .... young should support ..... old.  
 1) No article, a                                  2) The, the                                  3) the, a                                  4) an, a
9. Lohit has two cars; ..... blue one and ..... orange one. But he never rides ..... orange car.  
 1) the, the, the                                  2) a, a, the                                  3) a, an, the                                  4) a, an, an
10. ....book on ..... table is .....interesting one about .....asterology.  
 1) The, the, an, an                                  2) The, the, an, no article  
 3) A, the, an, no article                                  4) A, a , an, the

**ANSWERS**

1-2; 2-1; 3-3; 4-4; 5-1; 6-3; 7-3; 8-2; 9-3; 10-2.

**Writer: CVS Ravindranath**