

DEFINITE/INDEFINITE ARTICLE

*to use, or not to use:
that is the question!*

*a, an, and the belong to the group of words
called Determiners.*

What is it?

- **a- and - an-** are indefinite articles. It indicates a general thing, not specific. This information is new, unknown, or introduced for the first time.

E.g. A pen. (We don't know which pen exactly.) There is a diner across the street.

Tip 1. you cannot use - a - with plural nouns

Tip 2. Use - an- with vowels or muted - h -

- **the-** is a definite article. It indicates something certain or specific. The reader is already aware about this information.

E.g. The diner across the street is good.

How to use it?

- **a- and - an-**

We use them with nouns to indicate one single person or thing.

E.g. This is a picture of an owl.

- **the-**

We use it to indicate a certain person or thing.

E.g. Where is the laptop? (my laptop)

Fill in: The, a, an or leave blank!

- I have _____ great idea.
- Columbus was one of _____ first people to cross _____ Atlantic.
- _____ British drink too much tea.
- Judith earns \$ 2000 _____ month.
- Dancing is _____ more interesting activity than reading.
- As _____ captain of _____ ship I have _____ complete authority.
- _____ people we met on _____ holiday in _____ north of England came from _____ USA.
- What's on _____ TV today?
- He was doing eighty miles _____ hour on _____ motorway.



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Answer Key

Fill in: The, a, an or --

1. I have a great idea.
2. Columbus was one of the first people to cross the Atlantic.
3. The British drink too much tea.
4. Judith earns \$ 2000 a month.
5. Dancing is a more interesting activity than reading.
6. As captain of the ship I have complete authority.
7. The people we met on holiday in the north of England came from the USA.
8. What's on TV today?
9. He was doing eighty miles an hour on the motorway.