

Definite and 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.

For example: A pen. (We don't know which pen exactly.) There's 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.

For example: 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.

For example: This is a picture of an owl.

-the-

We use it to indicate a certain person or thing.

For example: Where's the laptop? (my laptop)

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

1. I have _____ great idea.
2. Columbus was one of _____ first people to cross _____ Atlantic.
3. _____ British drink too much tea.
4. Judith earns \$2000 _____ month.
5. Dancing is _____ more interesting activity than reading.

6. As _____ captain of _____ ship I have _____ complete authority.
7. _____ people we met on _____ holiday in _____ north England came from _____ USA.
8. What's on _____ TV today?
9. He was doing eighty miles _____ hour on _____ motorway.

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.