



Lecture title: Types of Nouns

Lecturer Affiliation: *Omar A. Al-Mahmood, Ph.D. Department of Public Health College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Mosul, Mosul, Iraq*

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2065-6165>

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Omar-Al-Mahmood>

Summary:

Definite and indefinite articles

An article is a word that modifies or describes the Noun. It is used before the noun to show whether it refers to something specific or not.

There are two types of articles in the English language, they are indefinite articles (a, an) and definite article (the).



TYPES OF ARTICLES

English Grammar

ARTICLE DEFINITION

An **article** is a word that modifies or describes the Noun. It is used before the noun to show whether it refers to something specific or not.



TYPES OF ARTICLE

Definite Article

Indefinite Article

DEFINITE ARTICLE

- Definite: To be clear, exact or obvious about something.
- It is called definite because it is used in relation to a particular thing or person.
- "**The**" is the definite article in English, which is used to refer to particular nouns, the identities of which are known.
- The definite article indicates that the noun is specific. The speaker talks about a particular thing.

For examples:

- **The** cat sat on the couch.
- **The** dog attacked me and ran away.

INDEFINITE ARTICLE

- Indefinite: Something which is not clear, obvious or exact.
- It is called indefinite because the identity of the thing or person being spoken about is left unclear or indefinite.
- It indicates that the noun is not someone or something in particular.
- The speaker talks about any one of that type of things. The indefinite articles in English are "**a**" and "**an**."

For examples:

- Do you have **a** pencil?
- I want to have **an** apple.



www.eslgrammar.org



- ▶ Use **a** or **an** before singular nouns.
Use **an** before words beginning with vowels (a, e, i, o, u). For example, say:

an axe	an igloo
an egg	an orange
an envelope	an umbrella
an ice cream	an uncle
- ▶ But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **a** (not **an**) before these words that begin with **u**:

a uniform	a university
------------------	---------------------
- ▶ Use **a** before words beginning with the other letters of the alphabet, called **consonants**.
For example, say:

a basket	a rainbow
a bowl	a monster
a car	a pillow
a hill	a watch
a house	a zoo
- ▶ But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **an** (not **a**) before these words that begin with **h**:

an heir
an honor
an hour