

Name _____

Date _____

Articles

An article is a small word with a very important job. Articles are special kinds of adjectives. They give information about nouns. Articles make it clear whether you are talking about a specific, definite thing or something in general.

There are only two articles: **a/an** and **the**. These words are always used with nouns. If you are talking about a specific thing (noun), you use the word **the**. If you are referring to any one of the possible things that the noun describes, you use the article **a** (or **an** if the first letter of the noun is a vowel).

For example, if there were a cat across the street that you are referring to, you would say

the cat

The cat is walking toward us.

Because it refers to a specific thing, *the* is called the **definite article**.

If you want to talk about cats in general and say something that might be true of any one of a number of cats, you would say

a cat

If you want a great pet, get **a** cat.

If you are talking about a general thing and the word for it begins with a vowel, you use **an** instead of *a*.

I saw **an** eagle in the forest.

The a/an article is known as the **indefinite article**. It refers to a noun that describes something in general, not a specific thing.

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Articles Exercises

1. Articles are used with
 - a. adjectives only
 - b. nouns only
 - c. all parts of speech
 - d. nouns and verbs

Fill in the blanks with the correct article. If two choices are possible, choose the type in parentheses.

2. I tried on a red dress and a blue dress. I liked _____ red dress better.
3. My cat Rusty is _____ best cat in the world!
4. Would you like _____ apple or _____ banana? (indefinite)
5. Please give me _____ pen so I can sign Dad's birthday card. (definite)
6. We are looking for _____ store where we bought Mary's birthday gift last week.
7. My brother has _____ old pair of skates that might fit me.
8. Mr. Jones is _____ very good teacher.
9. When we went to Florida, we saw _____ alligator in the river. (indefinite)
10. I can't wait for _____ last day of school!

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Articles Answers

1. b
2. the
3. the
4. an, a
5. the
6. the
7. an
8. a
9. an
- 10.the