

There is **a** strange footprint on **the** floor.



Where is it? All I can see is **an** umbrella. I think I'll need **a** magnifying glass.



Usage

We usually use an article in front of a noun or a noun phrase. There are two types of articles: the indefinite article (*a* or *an*) and the definite article (*the*).



Part 1 A / An

We use *a* and *an* with **singular countable nouns**. We use them:

- when we talk about one person or thing **for the first time**.

e.g. There is **an** oven at home. We can use it tomorrow.

e.g. My sister is married to **a** young doctor.

- to **refer to any member** of a group of people or things.

e.g. I need **an** oven to roast the turkey.

e.g. **A** doctor must like helping people.



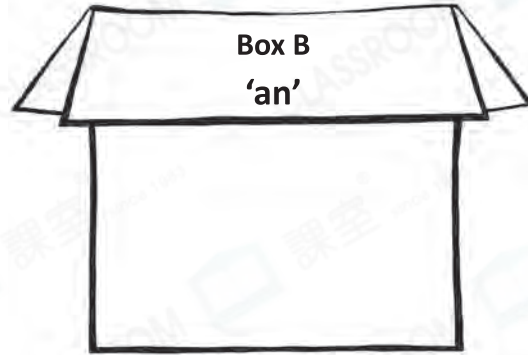
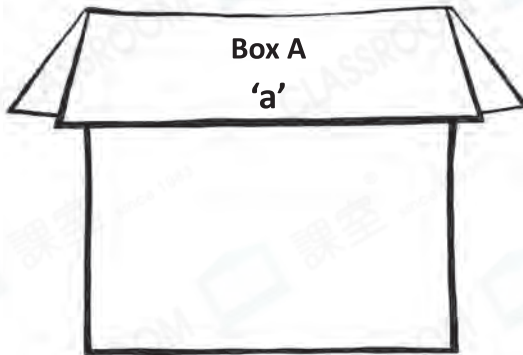
The use of *a* or *an* depends on the beginning sound of the following noun or noun phrase, not the letter:

	Noun / noun phrase beginning with...	Example
A	a consonant sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a ball, a hat, a uniform, a good book • a CD player, a PE teacher
An	a vowel sound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an apple, an hour, an old house • an ID card, an MTR station

Exercise 1

Divide the nouns and noun phrases into two groups. Put those that need 'a' before them in Box A and those that need 'an' in Box B.

object novel honour elephant university hospital
Octopus card X-ray DVD player hole pear



Part 2 The

We use *the* with **singular countable nouns**, **plural countable nouns** and **uncountable nouns**. We use it when:

1. we talk about someone or something **mentioned before**.

e.g. Mrs Li has two children: a boy and a girl. The boy is five and the girl is six.

2. it is clear from the situation **which person(s) or thing(s) we are talking about**.

e.g. **The** class teacher is angry.

(We have only one class teacher.)

e.g. Chef Tong said **the** turkey was *overdone*.

(The chef cooked only one turkey.)



3. there is **only one** of a person or a thing.

e.g. Mr Chan is **the** owner of our company.

(There is only one owner.)

e.g. **The** moon is full at Mid-Autumn Festival.

(There is only one moon.)



Vocabulary:

honour (n.): great respect or admiration for somebody

overdone (adj.): cooked too long

Exercise 2.1

Fill in the blanks with 'a', 'an' or 'the'.

1.

I want to be _____ a _____
scientist when I grow up,
while my brother wants to be
_____ architect.



2.



There is _____ orange boat in
_____ sea.

3.

Can you please help answer
_____ phone, Chloe? I
am taking _____ bath.



4.

Mrs Hill,
_____ vegetables are
very fresh!

How much is
_____ cabbage?



5.

I bought
_____ expensive ring.
Then I put it in
_____ very safe place.

_____ ring was stolen!



6.



Mr Green goes jogging in _____
beautiful park every day. Yesterday,
he met _____ old friend in
_____ park.



We also use *the* with the following:

Use	Example
Certain names of locations	the Seine (a river), the Atlantic (an ocean), the Sahara (a desert), the New Territories, The Peak
Certain country names	the United Kingdom, the Netherlands
Certain names of buildings	the Hong Kong Museum of Art, the Jardine House
Musical instruments	learn the trumpet, play the violin
Groups of people	the sick, the rich, the dead
Ordinal numbers	the first of May, the second floor

Exercise 2.2

Read the leaflet. 'The' is missing in nine places. Insert 'the' in the correct places.

Discover Hong Kong: Highlight Attractions

The Peak

Being the highest point on Hong Kong Island, ^{The} Peak offers a stunning view of Victoria Harbour and Hong Kong Cultural Centre. This is why place has attracted rich since colonial times.



Temple Street Night Market

When sun goes down, the bustle of market begins. The street hawkers lay out their products. The opera singers start to sing, accompanied by musicians who play flute and drums. You will definitely like lively atmosphere!



Educator's Tips



Don't use *a*, *an* or *the*:

- with most proper nouns such as names of people, brands and subjects.
e.g. *Mathematics* (X **the** Mathematics) e.g. *Samsung* (X **the** Samsung)
- in some common expressions.
e.g. *go home* (X **go the** home) e.g. *travel by taxi* (X **travel by the** taxi)

Exercise 2.3

There is a mistake in each sentence. Underline the incorrect articles and write the correct ones in the spaces provided.

1. Emily visited a Space Museum in Tsim Sha Tsui last week. 1. the
2. Mr Cooper shot a arrow at a deer. 2. _____
3. Would you like to go for the swim? 3. _____
4. A Himalayas is the highest mountain range in the world. 4. _____
5. James's brother, who is the engineer, had an accident today. 5. _____
6. A nurse looks after an sick. 6. _____
7. Some tourists are worried about their safety in a Philippines. 7. _____
8. Dad bought me the present yesterday. 8. _____

Unit Recap

Megan is writing a diary entry. Complete the diary entry with 'a', 'an' or 'the'. Write an 'X' if no article is needed.

16 July 20XX

Sunny

(1) _____ sun is no longer hiding behind clouds. The heavy rain in (2) _____ Canada has stopped. Hurray! Mum and I went to (3) _____ Butchart Gardens by (4) _____ bus today. There is (5) _____ wonderful rose garden in the Butchart Gardens. It is the best time to go there now because roses are usually in full blossom in summer. There are over fifty species of roses. This is (6) _____ first time I have seen so many species! In the afternoon, we joined (7) _____ greenhouse tour, which lasted for (8) _____ hour. (9) _____ gardener introduced some plant species to us. We learned a lot!

I hope that Dad can join us next time.