



SUPERIOR TEACHING
ZACATECAS

ARTICLES | AN, A, THE

10 examples of words with "a"

- A book
- A school
- A house
- A car
- A tree
- A river
- A cat
- A dog
- A flower
- A mountain

10 examples of words with "an"

- An apple
- An elephant
- An orange
- An umbrella
- An animal
- An igloo
- An ocean
- An hour
- An orbit
- An egg

10 examples of exceptions that use "a":

- A union
- A university
- A one-off
- A European
- A used car
- A useful trick
- A one-time chance
- A uniform
- A u-turn
- A unit

Definite article

Spanish articles	English	Number / Gender	Examples
El	The	Singular and masculine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El niño come. – The boy eats. • La mujer tiene un negocio – The woman has a business. • Los pájaros vuelan. The birds fly. • Las flores son bonitas. The flowers are pretty.
La		Singular and feminine.	
Los		Plural and masculine or masculine and feminine at the same time.	
Las		Plural and feminine.	

Indefinite article

Spanish articles	English	Number / Gender	Examples
Un	A, an	Singular and masculine.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ha sido un buen año. – It's been a good year. • Una persona te busca. – A person is looking for you. • Adopté unos gatos. – I adopted some cats. • Quiero unas galletas. – A want some cookies.
Una	A, an	Singular and feminine.	
Unos	Some	Plural and masculine or masculine and feminine at the same time.	
Unas	Some	Plural and feminine.	

HOW TO USE ARTICLES

The the definite article

VS

A/An the indefinite article

points to specific/particular nouns

USE

defines non-specific, singular nouns



Look! I flew **the** kite.

↪ This sentence refers to a particular kite.

The kids helped me fly it.

↪ refers to specific kids.

The definite article is also used in the second mention of a noun.

Lily loves her **the** cat and orange **the** kite. When **the** cat tore **the** kite, she got mad and cried.

↪ The definite article is used to refer to the same cat and kite mentioned in the first sentence.

The is used with noncount nouns.

ideas, qualities, things that can't be counted.

✓ He stole **the** money from me.

↪ refers to a particular money

✓ He stole money from me.

↪ non-specific money; no article needed

with
noncount
nouns

Join a/an with countable units to define noncount nouns.

✗ He stole **a** money from me.

✓ He stole **a** bag of money from me.

countable unit

singular noun
We saw **a** kite fly by.

↪ talks about a non-specific kite



singular noun
An owl can turn its head up to 270°.

↪ refers to any owl



A

a is used with nouns that begin with a vowel sound.
a person; a car; a ham; a ukulele; a uniform; a U.S. army

these words begin with the vowel sound "yoo"

An

an is used with nouns that begin with a consonant sound.
an epic; an ark; an order; an honor; an SOS; an heirloom

first sound is "oh" first sound is "eh"

A/AN	USES	EXAMPLES
	First mention	I saw an old woman and a dog in the park.
	Jobs	Paula is a teacher .
	Descriptions	Paris is an interesting city .

THE	USES	EXAMPLES
	Second mention	I saw a man and a dog. The man was old.
	Specific things	The children are in the garden .
	Only one thing	The moon looks beautiful today.
	Common places	We are going to the park .
	Superlatives	He is the best student in the class.
	Musical instruments	My daughter plays the violin .

ZERO ARTICLE	USES	EXAMPLES
	General meaning	I don't like children (=children in general).
	Meals	What time do you have breakfast ?
	Years, months, days	2005 was a great year.
	TV	There's a good film on TV .
	Languages, school subjects	He doesn't speak English . I study biology .
	Next, last	We went to the theater last week.