Like adjectives, articles modify nouns. English has two articles: the and a/an. The is used to refer to specific or particular nouns; a/an is used to modify non-specific or non-particular nouns. We call the the definite article and a/an the indefinite article.

- the = definite article
- a/an = indefinite article


Names of languages and nationalities: Chinese, English, Spanish, Russian (unless you are referring to the population of the nation: "The Spanish are known for their warm hospitality.")

Names of sports: volleyball, hockey, baseball.

Names of academic subjects: mathematics, biology, history, computer science.

There are two articles in Modern English: the indefinite article and the definite article.

1.1 The Indefinite Article.

The indefinite article has the forms a or an and is used with a noun in the singular. The form a [?] is used before words beginning with a consonant: a book, a house. The form an [an] is used before words beginning with a vowel: an apple, an orange.

The use of a limiting attribute is a means to show in the context of the sentence that the object denoted by the noun is singled out by the speaker from all objects of the same description and is therefore used with the definite article: ...at last they reached the outskirts of the forest, and saw, far down in the valley beneath them the lights of the village in which they dwelt.

This lesson makes it simple to understand and use articles correctly.

General Rules on How to Use Articles in English.

Okay, so let's do a review of the general rules of articles. I will not provide ALL the rules and exceptions of articles here. Many of those you will learn specifically in the text below.

A/An. We use a/an When a possessive pronoun (my, your, his/her/its, our, their) or demonstrative pronoun (this, that, these, those) is used before the noun, we do not use an article.

11. Summer. Generally no article is used with seasons, days of the week, months or holidays.

Note: There are some exceptions to this rule.

15. Gear.