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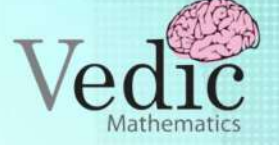
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Use of Articles

Use of 'A'/'An'

Article A or An is used before a singular noun. The choice between A or An is determined by **first sound of pronunciation** (not by the letter of alphabet even it may be A, E, I, O, U) of the noun. If it is pronounced with vowel sound, use **An** otherwise **A**.

Look at the following sentences:

- (a) He is an honest man.
- (b) He is a European.
- (c) He is an MLA
- (d) He is an SDO

The following words and the use of 'A' or 'An' before them. Students generally make mistake using A or An before these words:

- 1. An hour.
- 2. An hourly meeting.
- 3. An hour's daybreak.
- 4. An honour.
- 5. An honorary post.
- 6. An honourable person.
- 7. An honest man.
- 8. An heir.
- 9. An honorarium.
- 10. A house.
- 11. A historical fair.
- 12. A humble person.
- 13. A husband.
- 14. A heinous crime.
- 15. A young mar.
- 16. A ewe.
- 17. A university.
- 18. A unity.
- 19. A union.
- 20. A eulogy.
- 21. A one rupee note.
- 22. A one eyed man.
- 23. A uniform.

- 24. A useful book.
- 25. A useful feature.
- 26. A unique decision.
- 27. A united front.
- 28. A unified plan.
- 29. A year.
- 30. A USA ally.
- 31. An FO.
- 32. A forest officer.
- 33. An MP/MLC
- 34. A member of society.
- 35. An IAS/IPS/ILO
- 36. An SP/SDO.
- 37. An M.A./M.Sc.
- 38. An RTS/RTC.
- 39. An RC worker.
- 40. A UK ship / European.

'The'-Definite Article

The definite Article 'The' is used in following cases:

- 1. While speaking of a particular person or thing or one already referred to.

Example: She found a purse. The purse contained a golden chain. The golden chain is very precious.

- 2. When a singular noun is meant to represent a whole category/class:

Example: The dog is a faithful animal. (Or we say Dogs are faithful animals.)

- 3. 'The' is used before superlatives.

Example: She is the most beautiful girl in our college.

- 4. 'The' is used with the names of renowned building, gulf, river, ocean, sea etc.

Example: The Taj Mahal, The Persian Gulf, The Char Minar, The Pacific, The Ganges, The Red Sea, The Yamuna. The Thames



5. 'The' is placed only before the plural names of islands and the mountain ranges, chains of mountains, plural names of countries.

The Netherlands, The Philippines, The Bahamas, The Laccadive's islands, The Himalayas, The Alps, etc.

The is not used before the name of counties but if the name of county contains words like States. Kingdom Republic, we use the before them e.g. The USA The USSA The UK The Republic of Ireland, The Dominican Republic

6. The is used before names consisting of adjective + noun provided the adjective is not east west etc.)

Example: The Arabian Gulf, The New Forest, The High Street

7. The' is also used before names consisting of noun of noun

Example: The Cape of Good Hope. The Boy of Biscay, The Gulf of Mexico

8. The used before the adjectives east/west etc. + noun in certain names.

Example: The East West End. The East West Indies. The North South Pole

9. The is also used before the name of directions.

Example: The East, The West, The North, The South

10. The is used before the name of persons (Family) in plural

Example: The Raymonds, The Ambani's, The Birla's

11. Before the names of important and renowned books.

Example:

- (a) The Kuran
- (b) The Ramayana
- (c) The Mahabharata

But we say – Homer's Iliad, Valmiki's Ramayana, Jaidev's Geet Govind.

12. Before such common nouns that are names of things unique of their kind.

Example: The sun, The earth, The sky. The world. The a, The environment

Examples:

- (a) The sky is dark and the moon is shining.
- (b) The sea seems calm today.
- (i) In following cases we do not use 'The' before 'Sea'
 - (a) We go to seas sales
 - (b) He is a sea 'now – a – days (on a voyage)
- (ii) We can use 'the' before 'Space'. If it means place

He tried to park his car there but the space was too small.

But if it means area beyond the earth's atmosphere, do not use the before it.

Example: There are lacs of stars in space.

13. Before terms referring Nationality or Community.

Example: The Indian, The French. The American, The English

14. Before a proper noun, only when it is qualified by an adjective.

Example: The great Caesar, The immortal Shakespeare, The brave Napoleon.

15. With ordinals like.

Examples:

- (a) He was the first man to stand up.
- (b) The sixth chapter of this book is very interesting. First, second, third..... are called ordinals. One, Two, Three are called cardinals.

16. Before Musical Instruments and name of Inventions.

Examples:

- (a) He can play the flute / the tabla / the harmonium well.
- (b) Who invented the telephone?



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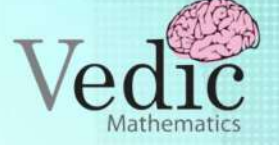
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17. Before an adjective, when the noun represents a class of persons

Examples:

- (a) The young will support the motion.
- (b) The poor can be trusted.

18. Before a common noun to give it the meaning of an abstract noun.

Examples:

- (a) The moralist in Gandhi, revolted against the injustice.
- (b) The judge in her prevailed upon the wife and she sentenced her husband to prison.

19. "The" is used before name of Newspaper, Community. Political Party. Historical event, Train, Ship, Aeroplane etc.

20. When two or more nouns refer to one person, put the before the first noun only. If both the nouns refer two different persons or thing, the is used before both of them

Examples:

- (a) The producer and financier was present there. (Producer and financier is one person)
- (b) The producer and the financier were present there. (Producer and financier are two different persons)

21. The 'is' is used as an adverb with a comparative.

Examples:

- (a) The more she gets the more she demands.
- (b) The sooner you complete the better it is.

22. "The" is used before comparative degree being used for selection or comparison.

Examples:

- (a) He is the stronger of the two.
- (b) This is the better of the two novels.

23. When a person being referred to has designation, the is used. The Chairman, The Director, The President, The Chancellor.

Example: All financial decisions will be taken by the chairman.

24. When the thing referred to is understood.

Examples:

- (a) Kindly return the book. (That I gave you)
- (b) Can you turn off the light? (The light in the room.)

25. "The" is used in some phrases also.

Examples:

- (a) What is the matter?
- (b) Come to the point.
- (c) She came to the rescue.
- (d) Keep to the left.
- (e) The market is hot with the rumour.
- (f) He is in the wrong.

26. In phrases; Go to the cinema, Go to the theatre 'the' is used.

Examples:

- (a) He went to the cinema yesterday.
- (b) She is going to the theatre.

27. Before names of Committee, Club, Foundation and Trust. The Lions Club, The Rotary Club, The United Nation, The WHO, The Ford Foundation, The Rajiv Gandhi Trust etc.

28. Letters written to two or more unmarried sisters jointly

may be addressed:

The Misses + surname:

The Misses Smith.

Zero Article Position

Students should learn the following points carefully to avoid the wrong use of articles.





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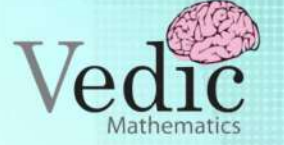
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Article is omitted in following cases:

1. before a Proper Noun.

Example: Akbar was a great king.

When 'Article' is used before a proper noun, it becomes a common noun

Examples:

- (a) Mumbai is the Manchester of India.
- (b) This man is a second Sachin.

2. before a Common Noun, used in its widest sense.

Examples:

- (a) Man is mortal.
- (b) What kind of bird it is?

3. before Plural Nouns referring a class in a general sense.

Examples:

- (a) Bankers are generally honest.
- (b) Lawyers are generally intelligent.

4. before Abstract Nouns that express qualities, state, feeling, actions.

Examples:

- (a) Honesty is the best policy.
- (b) Virtue is its own reward.

When abstract nouns, instead of referring qualities, express person or things possessing such qualities or express qualities of definite objects. They are preceded by Article.

Examples:

- (a) She possesses the cunningness of a fox.
(Here cunningness refers the quality of a definite object that is 'fox')
- (b) He is a justice of peace. ('Justice' stands for judge).

5. before Material Nouns.

Examples:

- (a) Iron is a hard metal.
- (b) Silver is a semi-precious metal.

When material nouns express things instead of matter of which they are made they are representing common noun', so they can be preceded by the Article.

Examples:

- (a) He threw a stone on the cow.
- (b) She threw a stick at the pig.

6. before names of diseases like Fever, Cholera, Consumption etc.

(But if the names of diseases are plural in their form, the article is generally used as: the measles, the mumps.)

7. before name of regular meals.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Example: He was invited to dinner.

(But if the meal becomes particular article is used).

Example: The dinner hosted by the queen was superb.

8. before name of things single in kind; Hell, Heaven, God, Parliament, Paradise (But 'The Pope', 'The Devil' are exceptions)

Examples:

- (a) He was condemned to hell.
- (b) The Pope delivered a religious speech.

9. before names of 'Languages' or 'Colours'.

Examples:

- (a) I do not know Hindi' but know 'English'.
- (b) I like red and blue colours.

10. before certain titles and names indicating the relationship.

Emperor Ashoka, President Bush, Dewan Bahadur.

Examples:

- (a) Prince Charles is Queen Elizabeth's son.
 - (b) President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas.
 - (c) Dr. Watson was 'Sherlock Holmes' friend.
 - (d) He is Duke of York.
- (But the Queen of England, the Pope are exceptions)





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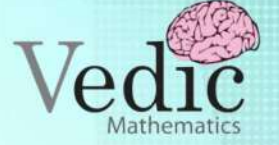
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11. before a noun following the expression kind of

Examples:

- (a) What kind of girl is she?
- (b) What kind of boy is he?

12. In certain phrases.

To take breath, to set sail, to leave school, to lay siege, to catch fire, at home, in hand, at school, by water, at sunset, on earth, by land, by train, by car, on demand, in debt, in jest etc.

13. before nouns, which are plural in their meanings though singular in form.

Cattle, gentry, furniture, scenery, advice, information.

14. before names of public institutions (Church, School, University, Prison, Hospital, Court, etc) if they are used, for the purpose they exist rather than actual building.

Example: He went to church. (It means he went to church for saying his prayer)
He went to the church and from there he took a bus. (Means that he went to the place where building of the church is situated)

15. When two or more descriptive adjectives qualify the same noun and adjectives are connected by 'and' the Article is used before the first adjective only.

Example: This is a Hindi and English Dictionary Here dictionary is one)

16. If two nouns refer to the same person or thing, the article is used before the first noun only, but if they refer to different persons or things, the article must be used with each noun.

Examples:

- (a) He is a better soldier than statesman.
- (b) He was a greater soldier than a statesman.

17. Article is omitted after the possessive case.

Example: His brother's car, Peter's house.

18. Article is omitted with professions,

Examples:

- (a) Engineering is a useful career.
- (b) He'll probably go into medicine.

19. Article is omitted with years.

Examples:

- (a) 1947 was a wonderful year.
- (b) Do you remember 2000?

20. No article is used before name of games, sports.

Examples:

- (a) I am playing cricket.
- (b) He is fond of playing tennis.

21. No article is used before a noun when it is modified by either a possessive adjective or a demonstrative adjective.

Examples:

- (a) Do you like my shirt? (Possessive adjective my)
- (b) I like this pen. (Demonstrative adjective "this")

22. No article is used before a noun when it is preceded by a distributive adjective.

Examples:

- (a) Every student got a prize. (Distributive adjective 'every')
- (b) Each student was present in the hall. (Distributive adjective 'each')

23. No article is used before number noun.

Examples:

- (a) The train arrives at platform 7.
- (b) I want shoes in size 10.

24. Workplace of work) is used without definite article "the".

Examples:

- (a) He is on his way to work.
- (b) She is at work.
- (c) They haven't back from work yet.



25. Office (= place of work) needs 'the': He is at in the office. To be in office (without the) means to hold an official usually political) position.

To be out of office = to be no longer in power.

26. Definite article the is omitted when speaking of the subject's or speaker's own town.

Examples:

- (a) We go to town sometimes to meet our mother.
(b) We went to town last year and remained there for a week.

27. Nature' when means environment, do not use article before it.

Example: If you interfere with nature you will suffer for it.

28. No article is used before name of Season".

Examples:

- (a) In Spring we like to clean the house.
(b) She is planning to visit her parents in winter.

29. Definite article the is not used before Time of day

Examples:

- (a) We travelled mostly by night.
(b) We'll be there around midnight.

30. Names without 'the':

Names of many places especially names of important buildings and institutions consist of two words. First word is usually the name of a person or a palace, we do not use the before such names usually.

Example: Delhi Airport, Victoria Station, London Zoo, Jaisingh Palace, Indira Gandhi Airport, Edinburgh Castle, Jaipur Palace etc.

31. Usually no article, is used with the name of Airlines, Companies, British Airways, Sony, IBM, KODAK, Indian Airlines etc.

Practice Questions

Directions (Q. Nos. 1 - 30) Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence, the number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is (5).

1. The boy (1)/is (2)/swimming (3)/ in the college pool. (4)/ No error (5)
2. This is a red (1)/shirt (2)/which my wife presented me (3)/on my last birthday. (4)/No error (5)
3. 'I'arul (1)/ was also invited (2)/ to the lunch hosted by the queen, (3)/at her residence yesterday. (4)/ No error (5)
4. The Punjabi (1)/is (2)/ a very sweet language (3)/ of Punjab. (4)/ No error (6)
5. Arijit (1)/ is the (2)/ most popular (3)/singer in Indian film industry. (4) / No error (5)
6. Kunal (1)/ was (2)/ sentenced to (3)/ a prison by the judge. (4)/ No error (5)
7. I (1)/ will go (2)/ there (3)/ by train or by bus. (4)/ No error (5)
8. My parents (1)/sometimes (2)/come to my school (3)/to see principal. (4)/No error (5)
9. Riya (1)/ went home (2)/very late (3)/last Monday. (4)/ No error (5)
10. The winters (1)/are (2)/generally very (3)/cold here. (4)/ No error (5).



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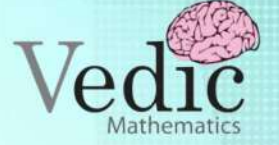
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11. Little knowledge (1)/ of computers that she possessed (2)/ proved a boon for her (3)/ in getting this job. (4)/ No error (5)

12. We (1)/ saw (2) / a elephant (3)/ in the zoo. (4)/ No error (5)

13. It is (1)/a most (2)/beautiful (3)/painting of the gallery. (4)/ No error (5)

14. He (1)/ went there (2)/ a hour ago (3)/with his sister. (4) / No error (5)

15. Kashmiri (1)/shawls (2)/ are made of (3)/the hair of sheep. (4) No error (5)

16. An horse (1)/is (2)/running (3)/in the ground. (4)/ No error (5)

17. An European girl (1)/came to India (2)/to (3)/meet her friend. (4)/No error (5)

18. The Rome (1)/ was (2)/not built (3) in a day. (4)/ No error (5)

19. Sarika (1)/ helps (2) poor and (3)/ the sick people happily. (4)/No error (5)

20. I (1)/found (2)/ an one rupee note (3) on the road yesterday. (4)/ No error (5)

21. Chief Minister (1)/ will (2)/decide (3)/the matter soon. (4)/No error (5)

22. Kshitiz (1)/is (2)/a (3)/honest boy. (4)/No error (5)

23. The sun (1)/rises in (2)/the east (3) is an universal truth. (4)/ No error (5)

24. Times of India (1)/ is a popular (2)/newspaper (3)/of these days. (4)/No error (5)

25. Three children (1)/ died (2)/ in a (3) bus accident yesterday. (4)/No error (5)

26. It was an insight (1) and perseverance of the lady doctor (2)/that many women were (3) able to lead normal life. (4)/No error (5)

27. It is a pity (1)/that the daughter of millionaire (2)/is involved in (3)/the bank robbery. (4)/ No error (5)

28. He was in a trouble (1) when he saw (2)/ a truck running (3)/ towards his car. (4)/ No error (5)

29. The fruits of (1)/all the modern luxuries (2)/lie in (3)/the science. (4)/No error (5)

30. I advised him (1)/to take the heart (2)/ in all (3) odd circumstances (4) No error (5)

