

Articles: a, an, the

Vowels

What are vowels? Vowels are the letters A, E, I, O, U.

If a word begins with a vowel, we use "an."

For example: "An apple, an ear, an iPhone, an orange, an umbrella."

If a word does not begin with a vowel, we use "a."

For example: "A cat, a pen, a face, a shirt, a window."



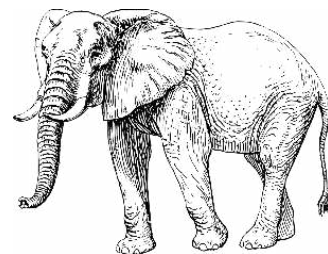
1. Circle the vowels in the sentences.

- a) **A** happy dog.
- c) **An** open door.
- d) Tw**o** houses.
- e) **A** loud man.
- f) **Five** big cakes.



2. Circle "a" or "an" in the sentences.

- a) I have a / an car.
- b) I don't live in a / an city.
- c) He is a / an angry man.
- d) Look, a / an Elephant!
- e) He takes a / an bus to school.
- f) She is a / an very good friend.
- g) Do you need a / an umbrella?
- h) She lives in a / an very big house.



Plurals

Plural means more than one. For example, the plural of “friend” is “friends.”

We only use “a” or “an” if there is *one* of a thing. If there is more than one, we do not use these words.

For example: “*A book (one), 3 books (more than one). An open door (one), 2 open doors (more than one).*”



3. Complete the sentences below using “a” or “an”, or leave the gap empty for plurals (plurals means more than one).

a) She is **a** doctor.

b) Do you want **an** ice-cream?

c) We have 6 apples.

d) There are twenty students in my class.

e) Do you have **a** phone?

f) That is **an** orange house.

g) There are two supermarkets near my house.

h) I have 3 uncles and **an** aunt.

i) He has **a** nice beard.

j) I eat dinner with my friends.



4. Read the conversation below with a partner.

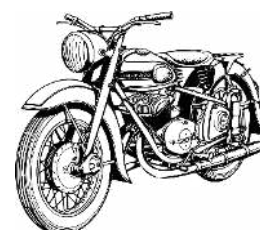
James: “How many brothers and sisters do you have?”

Tony: “I have three brothers and a sister. How many aunts and uncles do you have?”

James: “I have an uncle and two aunts. Do you have a car?”

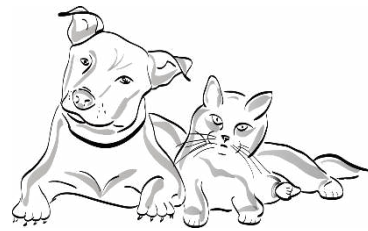
Tony: “No, I don’t have a car, but I do have a motorbike.”

James: “Very cool.”



5. Ask an answer the questions with a partner.

- a) How many brothers and sisters do you have?
- b) How many pets do you have?
- c) Do you have a car or a motorbike?
- d) How many jackets do you have?
- e) Do you have a watch?



6. Now write 3 sentences about your partner from their answers.

For example: *"He has a brother but he doesn't have a sister. He doesn't have a car. He has a very nice watch."*

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The Word "the"

We use "the" to talk about a specific noun.

For example: *"I have a jacket"* (not specific, any jacket), *"I have the jacket my mother gave me."* (specific jacket).

"I work at a restaurant" (not specific, any restaurant), *"I work at the restaurant next to the supermarket"* (specific restaurant).

We often use "the" if the person already knows the thing we are talking about.

For example: *"Do you have a jacket?"* (any jacket). *"Do you have the jacket?"* (Talking about a specific jacket).

We cannot use "a" or "an" for plurals, but we can use "the."

For example: *"The three beers in the fridge are mine."*



7. Read the sentences and circle "a", "an", or "the."

- a) I have a / an / the pet dog.
- b) He does not like a / an / the food at this restaurant.
- c) Can I have a / an / the orange juice please?
- d) A / An / The food I eat is very healthy!
- e) A / An / The music is too loud!
- f) Do you have a / an / the dollar? I don't have money.
- g) A / An / The airport in London is very big.
- f) Do you know a / an / the man in the red jacket? He is looking at us.
- h) Every day I go to a / an / the bakery next to my house and buy a / an / the coffee.
- i) A / An / The bus I usually take was cancelled, so I had to take a / an / the taxi.



8. Read the story about a morning routine and complete it with "a" "an" "the", or leave the space empty for plurals.

Every morning I wake up and make **a** coffee. When I close **the** door to my apartment I always check my pockets for my keys. I go to **the** shop near my house and buy **a** newspaper. When I get to work I say hello to some colleagues, and then I start work. **The** man who works next to me is very loud, and talks all day, so I listen to songs on my headphones while I work. **The** music I listen to is very relaxing, so at the end of the day I am usually very happy. After work I usually go to **a** bar or restaurant with my friends. There are many good bars near me.

