

Articles

Articles (**a**, **an**, and **the**) show whether a noun is specific or unspecific. '**The**' is used to indicate a noun that is specific, while '**a**' (or '**an**') is used to indicate a noun that is unspecific.

Type of Article	Examples Involving Singular Nouns	Meaning
Definite	Sally wants to eat the bun .	Sally wants to eat a specific bun.
Indefinite	Sally wants to eat a bun .	Sally wants to eat any bun.

Additionally, **no article** is necessary when describing a plural subject that is unspecific and usually when an abstract idea or concept is being introduced.

Type of Article	Example Involving Plural Nouns	Meaning
Definite & Plural	Sally wants to eat the buns .	Sally wants to eat many specific buns.
Indefinite & Plural (No Article)	Sally wants to eat buns .	Sally wants to eat more than one bun, but not any specific buns.
Abstract Concept (No Article)	Sally values honesty .	Honesty, an abstract concept, is important to Sally.

More on Articles:

The Little Seagull Handbook (3rd Edition), pp. 373-75

OWL Purdue: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/grammar/using_articles.html

A resource created by Tristin Barker for



<https://kings.uwo.ca/writeplace>

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