

What Are Articles (a, an, the)?

Worksheet

Articles are words placed before nouns: 'a' and 'an' are indefinite articles (general, singular); 'the' is the definite article (specific/known). Use 'an' before vowel sounds.

Questions

1. I need ___ pencil to write.
A) a
B) an
C) the
D) no article
2. He is ___ honest person.
A) a
B) an
C) the
D) no article
3. Did you see ___ movie last night?
A) a
B) an
C) the
D) no article
4. There is ___ tree in ___ garden.
A) a, the
B) an, a
C) the, a
D) a, a
5. Complete: I saw ___ cat. It was ___ orange cat.
6. Fill in: She is ___ doctor. She works at ___ hospital.
7. Choose: ___ apple or ___ orange?
8. Define: When do you use 'a'?
9. Define: When do you use 'an'?
10. Define: When do you use 'the'?

Answer Key

1. A) a — 'Pencil' starts with 'p' (consonant sound), so use 'a'.
2. B) an — 'Honest' starts with a vowel sound (though spelled 'h'), so use 'an'.
3. C) the — Asking about a specific, known movie → use 'the'.
4. A) a, the — 'Tree' (consonant) = 'a'; 'garden' is known/specific = 'the'.
5. First mention (general) = 'a' Second mention (specific) = 'the' Answer: I saw a cat. It was the orange cat.
6. Before 'd' (consonant) = 'a' Before 'h' (consonant) = 'a' Answer: She is a doctor. She works at a hospital. (Or: ...works at the hospital if it's a known one)
7. Before 'a' (vowel sound) = 'an' Before 'o' (vowel sound) = 'an' Answer: An apple or an orange?
8. Before singular nouns that start with a consonant sound (a book, a dog).
9. Before singular nouns that start with a vowel sound (an apple, an hour).
10. When the noun is specific, known or has already been mentioned (the sun, the book we read).

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