



Class 6

Online Emergency Eng Class/Activity – 1

April 5, 2020

Articles

(A) The Indefinite Article **a /an** is used

i. before a singular countable noun mentioned for the first time.

e.g. He has **a** *blue suit*.

Betty saw **an** *owl* last night.

ii. when the listener does not know which particular person or thing we mean.

e.g. Please give me **a** *pen*, Mary.

N.B. “**a**” is used before a noun beginning with a **consonant** sound.

e.g. **a** *boy*

a *one-way road*

a *European*

a *uniform*

“**an**” is used before a noun beginning with a vowel sound.

e.g. **an** *egg*

an *hour*

an *MTR train*

(B) The Definite Article **the** is used

i. to refer to a noun that has been mentioned before or that is known to both the speaker and the listener.

e.g. He has **a** dog and **a** cat. **The** *dog* is friendly, but **the** *cat* is not.

The *man* you met just now is my uncle.

ii. before a comparative or superlative adjective.

e.g. Paul is **the** *fatter* one.

Compare: Paul is fatter than David.

Andrew is **the** *fattest* boy in our class.

iii. before an ordinal number.

e.g. **The** *second* chapter is very interesting.

iv. before a noun that is unique.

e.g. **The** *sun* rises in **the** *east*.

v. with some adjectives to talk about a specific group of people.

e.g. We should be more concerned with **the** *poor* and **the** *sick*.

vi. before musical instruments.

e.g. I started playing **the** *piano* when I was six.

vii. before names of buildings, mountain ranges, seas, rivers, certain countries which start with UNITED or end in 's', and groups of islands.

e.g. **The** *Lee Theatre* has been pulled down.

I really want to climb **the** *Himalayas*.

The *Atlantic Ocean* separates **the** *United States* from **the** *United Kingdom*.

(C) No article is used

i. with plural nouns or uncountable nouns in general.

e.g. Girls like to receive flowers.

Milk is good for both children and adults.

ii. before names of games, months, seven days of a week, festivals, languages and meals.

e.g. John does not play football.

Mr. White is learning Chinese.

iii. before words like bed, church, hospital, prison, school, university, etc. when these places are used or visited for their primary purposes.

e.g. They go to church on Sundays.

I go to bed at ten o'clock every night.