

## ARTICLES: A, AN; AND *THE*

a. I brought <i>a book</i> yesterday	<b>A</b> is an article. It is used in front of singular nouns that you can count: one book, two books, three books, etc. This kind of noun is called a <i>count noun</i> .
b. Bob saw <i>an elephant</i> .	<b>AN</b> is used instead of <b>a</b> , in front of count nouns that begin with a vowel (a, e i ,o, u) or vowel sound
c. I would like <i>some water</i> .	<b>A</b> is not used in front of nouns that you cannot count. This kind of noun is called a <i>noncount noun</i> . In ( c ): <i>water</i> is a noncount noun. <i>Some</i> is frequently used in front of a noncount noun.
d. I bought <i>some books</i> yesterday.	<i>Some</i> is also used with plural count nouns, as in (d).
e. The sun is bright today.	<b>The</b> is also an article. There are many different situations in which <i>the</i> is used, but generally <i>the</i> is used when the speaker and the listener have a specific thing or person in mind; they are both thinking about the same thing or person. In (e): the speaker and the listener are both thinking about the same sun.
f. Please close the door.	In (f): Both the speaker and the listener are thinking about the same door: the door in this room, the door that is open.
g. Yesterday I saw a cat. The cat was running after a mouse. The mouse ran into a hole. The hole was very small.	<b>The</b> is used the second time a speaker mentions a noun. In (g): <i>the dog</i> = the dog that the speaker was talking about in the first sentence, the dog the speaker saw yesterday.
h. A student came into the room. I looked at the student.	<b>The</b> may be used with any noun. In (h) <i>the student</i> = singular count noun
i. Some students came into the room. I looked at the students.	In (i) <i>the students</i> = plural count noun
j. I drank some water. The water was very cold.	In (j). <i>The water</i> = noncount noun

