

# Grammar Lesson



# Articles

a , an ,

the

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1st grade of HS

# a

- We use "a" before countable nouns (singular) for **the first time**:
- We use "a" with words beginning with **a consonant** ( b, c, d, f , g ... ):



a book



a baby



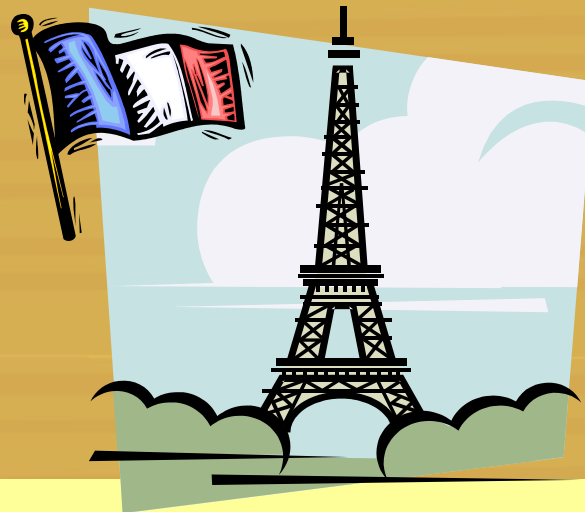


# a

- We also use "a" before "u" when it is pronounced like the word "you" and before "eu":



a university



a European country

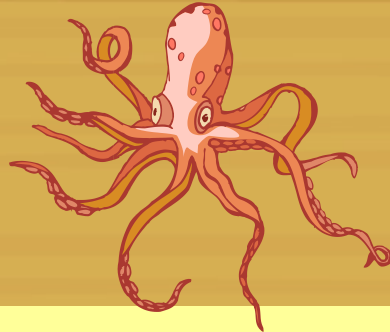


# an

- We use "an" before words beginning with **vowels** (a, e, i, o u):



an igloo



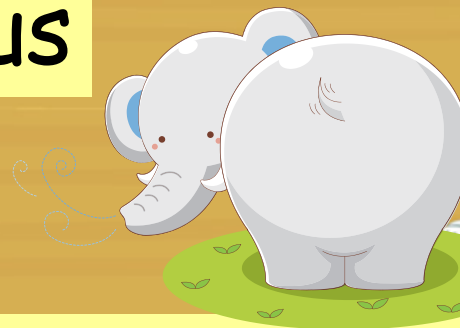
an octopus



an axe



an umbrella



an elephant





# an

- We use "an" before words that start with a **silent "h"**:

60  
minutes

an hour



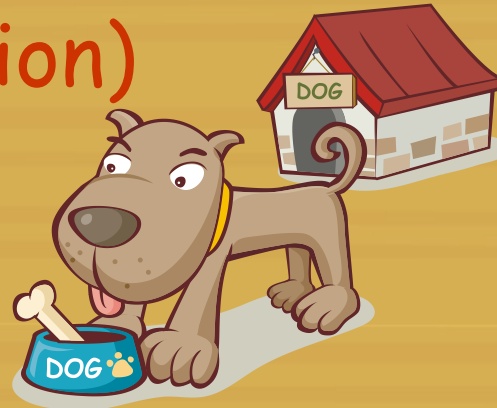
an honour



# the

- We use "the" to refer to a specific person, thing or object that has been mentioned before or that is clear from the context.

(not new information)



I see a dog. **The** dog is eating.





# the

- We also use "the" when there is only one of something:



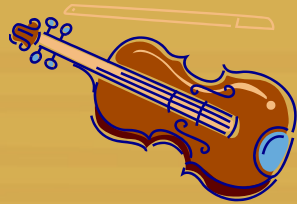
the earth, the world, the moon,  
the sun, the sky, the stars, the air



# the

- "The" is also used in the following cases:

**Before musical instruments:**



**the** piano, **the** violin, **the** guitar





# the

Before mountain groups, rivers, island groups, seas, deserts:



the United Kingdom,  
the United States of America



the Philippines



the Himalayas



the Sahara Desert



the Pacific Ocean  
the Nile



# the

Before the superlative form of an adjective:



**the** strongest , **the** biggest , **the** best...

Before ordinal numbers:



**the** twenty- fifth of December





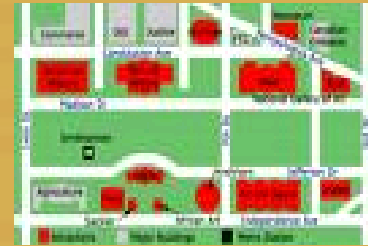
# zero article

People's personal names ,  
People's titles



Mr Brown, Miss Chan,  
Mary, John

Streets, squares,  
parks, parts of town



Oxford Road,  
Victoria Park

Continents, countries, towns



North America, Canada, Toronto





# zero article

Days of the week, years, holidays, months, seasons



Monday, April, spring, Easter, 2009

Sports



table tennis,  
football, golf

Meals



breakfast,  
lunch, dinner

Languages



English, French

