

Grammar Lesson



Articles

a , an ,

the

Teacher Silvino Sieben
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



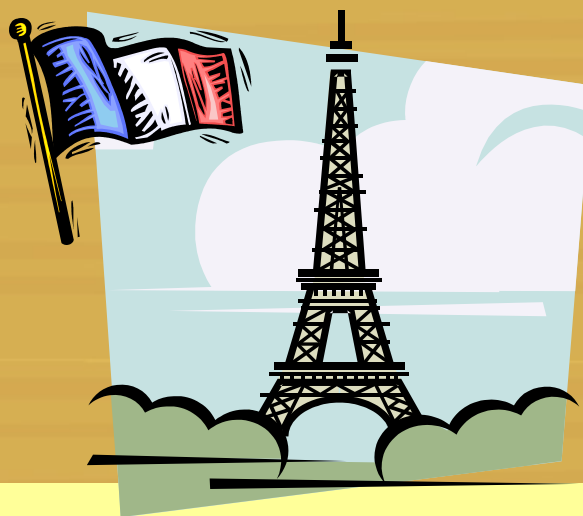


a

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



a university



a European country

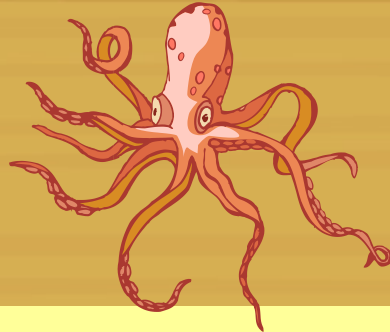


an

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



an igloo



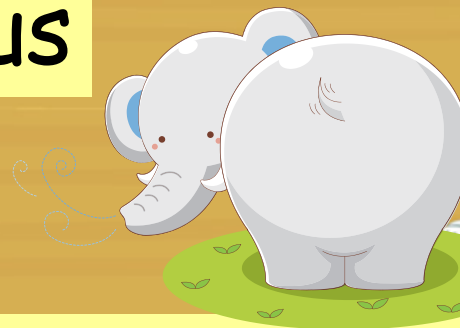
an octopus



an axe



an umbrella



an elephant





an

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

60
minutes

an hour



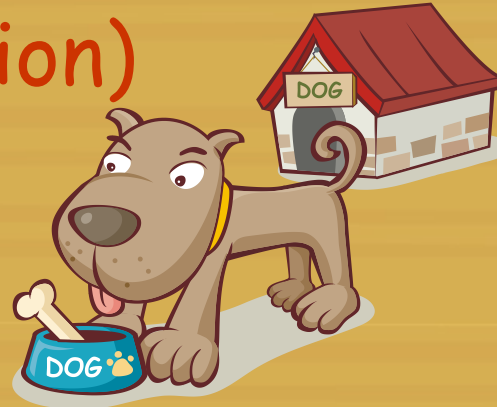
an honour



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:



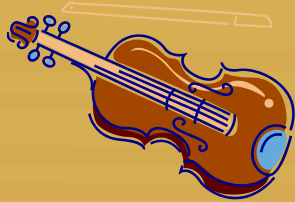
the earth, the world, the moon,
the sun, the sky, the stars, the air



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

