

ARTICLES IN ENGLISH

**Special Class for B.A. 2nd
Semester English (Core)**

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Articles in English

a, an, the

Indefinite Articles

a, an

Definite Article

the

This special class is based on your end semester exam question papers from the year 2012 to 2017.

We'll first have a look at each blank space for an article in a question, and then I shall try to illustrate its correct usage in English.

Question:

I want _____ pen and _____
umbrella. (2012, 2013)

Answer:

I want a pen and an umbrella.

Usage Note:

Use 'a' before a consonant sound and 'an' before a vowel sound.

Remember, it is the *sound*, and *not the letter*, that matters in this context.

Question:

There is _____ hourly bus service
on this route. (2016)

Answer:

There is an hourly bus service on
this route. (2016)

Usage Note:

Use 'an' if the initial 'h' is mute.

More examples of words

beginning with a silent 'h':

heir, heiress, heirloom, honest,

honesty, honorary, honorarium,

hour, etc.

Question:

Babul's sister is _____ M.A. in
Philosophy. (2017)

Answer:

Babul's sister is **an** M.A. in
Philosophy. (2017)

Usage Note:

Use 'an' if the initial sound of an abbreviation is that of a vowel.

More examples:

an M.B.A. degree, an L.P.

school, an R.C.C. house, an

N.C.C. officer, etc.

Question:

My friend Arthur is _____
European. (2017)

Answer:

My friend Arthur is a European.

Usage Note:

If the initial sound of a word is like ‘**yu**’, which is a consonant sound, use ‘**a**’ before it.

More examples:

**university, Europe, uniform,
union, unique, Unitarian, united,
universal, usual, etc.**

Question:

I found _____ one-rupee coin
on the road. (2016)

Answer:

I found a one-rupee coin on the road.

Usage Note:

Even when the first letter of a word is a vowel, use 'a' if it produces a consonant sound like 'wa'.

More examples:

- This is a One-Act play.
- He is a one-eyed man.
- This is a one-way street.

Question:

_____ sixth chapter of this
book is very interesting. (2017)

Answer:

The sixth chapter of this book is
very interesting.

Usage Note:

Use 'the' when you specifically and very clearly refer to a particular person or object.

e.g.

- I want **the** book, and not a book.
- He swore revenge on **the** man who had killed his father.

Questions:

- _____ Krishna and _____ Kaveri are two big rivers in the South. (2012)
- She reads _____ Gita every day. (2013)

Answers:

- **The** Krishna and **the** Kaveri are two big rivers in the South.
(2012)
- She reads **the** Gita every day.
(2013)

Usage Notes:

- Use 'the' before the names of rivers.
- Use 'the' before the names of holy books.

Questions:

- It was _____ event that surprised _____ scientific world. (2012, 2014)
- We met _____ Englishman and _____ Japanese _____ other day. _____ Japanese wore _____ red shirt. (2014)
- Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were _____ first to conquer Everest in _____ year 1953. (2014)

Answers:

- It was an event that surprised the scientific world.
- We met an Englishman and a Japanese the other day. The Japanese wore a red shirt.
- Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first to conquer Everest in the year 1953.

Question:

Saswati was adjudged _____
best debater. (2016)

Answer:

Saswati was adjudged **the** best debater.

Usage Note:

Use 'the' before the superlative adjectives.

More examples:

the hardest, **the** brightest, **the** most beautiful, **the** least expensive, etc.

Thank you for being with me!

More in the next class.

Till then,

bye!

Stay safe!

H. Sultan

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