

Articles

Articles are classified into two categories: **indefinite** and **definite**.

The indefinite article **a/an** is used in general nouns and noun that have not been specified. A/an is used with singular count nouns. *Generally, unspecific plural nouns do not need to have an article (Ø).

	Examples	Important notes
a/an	There is an aquarium in Central Park. This is a beautiful house.	Use a/an when you mention something for the first time. Use a/an to talk about one of a group of things.
(Ø)	There are skyscrapers* in the downtown area. How many hotels are there in San José?	Don't use a/an before plural nouns.

*Vocabulary:

Skyscrapers: rascacielos.

The definite article, **the**, is used with both count and noncount nouns. It shows that the nouns are specific, special or unique.

	Examples	Important notes
The	My town has an aquarium. The aquarium is located in Central Park. The oldest building in my town is the church. Do you want to take the train or the bus? We're going to the mall this weekend.	The is used when an indefinite noun becomes definite as a result of being mentioned a second time. The is used to talk about something specific. The is used when the speaker and the listener both know the thing or person being spoken of.
(Ø)	Parks are an important part of any city.	Don't use the with plural nouns when you are talking about things in general.