Indefinite Articles 'a' and 'an' (01) – Part A: Easy

In context

5 min

What is an indefinite article?

a dog

an apple

The small words 'a' and 'an' before the nouns 'dog' and 'apple' are indefinite articles.

Indefinite Articles
5 min

'a' and 'an' are 'indefinite articles': they are used before a singular noun and refer to an unspecific person, object or idea.

We use 'a' when the next word begins with a consonant. A consonant is: b, c, d, f, etc.
Examples:
a boy
a car

We use 'an' when the next word begins with a vowel. A vowel is: a, e, i, o, u.
Examples:
an elephant
an image

Writing Exercise
5 min

Complete with 'a' or 'an'.

1. I drive_____ car.
2. My sister has _____ mobile phone.
3. I like to eat _____ avocado at lunch.
4. Helen plays _____ interesting musical instrument.
5. Tom plays with _____ ball in the garden.
6. We watch _____ film every weekend.
7. They have _____ idea.
8. The Nile is _____ river.
9. When it rains, I take _____ umbrella.
10. There is _____ cat on the bed.

Writing Exercise
5 min

Complete with the words from this list:
orange, industrial, word, Asian, boat

1. I work for an_____ company.
2. My friend has a_____.
3. 'Telecommunications' is a _____ I find difficult to say.
4. It is very good to eat an _____ every morning for breakfast.
5. China is an_____ country.

Reading Exercise
5 min

Read the sentences to your teacher and say why we use 'a' or 'an'.
1. I dream of a perfect world.
2. New York is a great city.
3. Champagne is an excellent drink.
4. An incredible thing is happening!
5. I drink 8 glasses of water a day.

Watch the Video!
5 min

With this video, you will practice the definite articles 'a' and 'an'.

Watch the first 50 seconds of the video:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmYgPHr60VU&feature=related

Watch the first 50 seconds again and complete the sentences:
1. Are you reading _____ comedy?
2. Are you reading _____ romance?
3. Are you reading _____ adventure?
4. _____ you reading _____ tragedy?
5. Are you reading _____ science fiction _____?
6. What are you _____?
7. I am reading _____ cook _____.

Put the words in the correct order:

1. son / truck / drives / my / a

_____

2. song / a / to / listens / Helen

_____

3. an / instrument / plays / she

_____

4. in / car / dog / a / is / your / there

_____

5. ice / I / an / would / cream / like

_____

Complete with 'a' or 'an':

1. I read _____ article in _____ newspaper.
2. We eat _____ sandwich and _____ apple.
3. Dave wants to have _____ barbecue with his friends.
4. Let's go see _____ movie!
5. I have _____ idea!