

For students at **elite** – The International English School

✦ 193-193A Ba Thang Hai Street, District 10 ✦ 19-21 Nguyen Kiem Street, Go Vap District, Ho Chi Minh City, VIETNAM

34

Basic rules for " A, An or The

a = indefinite article (not a specific object, one of a number of the same objects) with consonants

Eric has a dog.

Gregory works in a factory.



an = indefinite article (not a specific object, one of a number of the same objects) with vowels (a,e,i,o,u)



Can I have an apple?

Donata is an English teacher.

the = definite article (a specific object that both the person speaking and the listener know)

The car over there is fast.

The teacher is very good, isn't he?



The first time you speak of something use "**a** or **an**", the next time you repeat that object use "**the**".

I live in a house. The house is quite old and has two bedrooms.

I ate in a Vietnamese restaurant. The restaurant was not very clean.

DO NOT use **an article** with **countries, states, counties** or **provinces, lakes** and **mountains** except when the country is a collection of states such as "the United States".

My uncle lives in Cumbria near Lake Windermere.

They live in Bristol.



Use an article with **bodies of water, oceans and seas.**

I live on a small island in the Baltic Sea.

DO NOT use **an article** when you are speaking about things **in general.**

I like Indian tea.

Simon likes reading books about linguistics.

DO NOT use **an article** when you are speaking about **meals, places,** and **transport.**



He has breakfast at home.

I go to university.

Magda comes to work by taxi.

Compiled by **Mr. MaxEnglish**
("English Articles". world-english.org. December 28, 2005.)

