

DEFINITE

VERSUS

INDEFINITE

ARTICLES

WHEN SHOULD YOU USE THEM?

THE

The definite article the is used to refer to something specific, unique or previously mentioned.

The can be used before **singular** or **plural** nouns.

*The leaf is pink.
The leaves are large.*

The is used with **count** and **non count nouns**.

*Water the plants, please.
Can you pass me the water?*

A/AN

Indefinite articles a/an are used to refer to a noun that is not specific.

A/an are used only for **singular** nouns.

*I sat by a tree.
He planted an apple orchard.*

A/an are used only with **count** nouns.

*She has a flower.
We visited an arboretum.*

Choosing A or AN

A: the next word begins with a **consonant** or **u/eu** sound.

*a palm tree
a eucalyptus plant*

An: the word starts with a **vowel** sound.

an orchid

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