

# Articles - 3 Quick Rules

There are several rules for using articles (a, an, the). Here are three.

## RULE ONE

1. You use **a** or **an** for singular count nouns (a king, a game, an apple). You could use **the** with all (count & uncountable) nouns but it depends on the context.



... We will explain using **the** in rule #2 and rule #3 below.

**Quick Practice.** Decide if the noun is singular countable. If it is, write **a** or **an**. *Hint: only ten take a/an.*

|                  |                    |                |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Ex. _____ apple  | _____ egg          | _____ car      |
| _____ athlete    | _____ feet         | _____ men      |
| _____ book       | _____ health       | _____ money    |
| _____ children   | _____ water        | _____ pen      |
| _____ connection | _____ organization | _____ homework |
| _____ sugar      | _____ information  | _____ mall     |
| _____ advice     | _____ ice          | _____ iPad     |

Which ones didn't take **a/an**? Why?

## RULE TWO

Use **a** or **an** when you mention something for the first time. Use **the** when you have mentioned it before.

**Examples:** I bought **a** car. **The** car was not expensive.

She has **a** book in her hand. **The** book is for her math class.

**Practice:** Choose **a**, **an** or **the** and fill in the blanks.

Maitha wanted to celebrate **a** special event, so she went to \_\_\_\_\_ bakery to buy **a** cake. \_\_\_\_\_ bakery is near her house. \_\_\_\_\_ cake was for \_\_\_\_\_ little girl. \_\_\_\_\_ little girl's name is Muna. It was Muna's birthday. Maitha placed \_\_\_\_\_ order for the cake.



Maitha also decided to buy Muna \_\_\_\_\_ special present.

\_\_\_\_\_ present had to be affordable. At another shop, Maitha looked for \_\_\_\_\_ toy. She found a giant teddy bear and loved it.

Unfortunately, \_\_\_\_\_ bear cost 500DHS and that was too much money. She couldn't buy \_\_\_\_\_ giant teddy bear, so bought

\_\_\_\_\_ smaller one instead. After she bought \_\_\_\_\_ toy, she went back to \_\_\_\_\_ bakery and picked up \_\_\_\_\_ cake. Then she went home to enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ special event with her family.



## RULE THREE

### Use *the* with superlative or ordinal numbers

#### Examples:

##### Superlative

This is the best car. No other car is better.  
Ahmed has the most money. He's the richest person in the city.

##### Ordinal numbers

This is the third rule for today. Today is the second day of the week.

**Practice:** Choose **a**, **an** or **the** to fill in the blanks.

Saeed has \_\_\_\_\_ exam next week in English. It is \_\_\_\_\_ third English exam of the semester. He did well on \_\_\_\_\_ first exam but not \_\_\_\_\_ second one. \_\_\_\_\_ easiest thing for him is reading and \_\_\_\_\_ most difficult part is grammar. He plans to review all his grammar notes to prepare.



Aisha is \_\_\_\_\_ doctor and she works at Oasis Hospital. Oasis Hospital was \_\_\_\_\_ first large hospital in Al Ain. She is \_\_\_\_\_ anesthetist. Anesthetists work with surgeons to keep the patient safe during \_\_\_\_\_ operation. She was \_\_\_\_\_ first member of her family to graduate from university. \_\_\_\_\_ best part of her job is

speaking with people and helping them when they are nervous.

Right now Aisha is speaking to \_\_\_\_\_ third patient of the day.

The woman is very worried because it is \_\_\_\_\_ first time she has been in hospital. However, she is not \_\_\_\_\_ most difficult patient that Aisha has ever had.

