Subject: economic English

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**Lecture on Articles: A, An, The**

**Introduction to Articles**

Articles are small words that go before nouns. They help us know if the noun is specific or general. There are **three articles** in English:

* **A** (Indefinite article)
* **An** (Indefinite article)
* **The** (Definite article)

Articles are divided into two types:

1. **Indefinite Articles**: "A" and "An" (for general things)
2. **Definite Article**: "The" (for specific things)

**1. Indefinite Articles: "A" and "An"**

We use **"a"** and **"an"** when talking about something general or not specific.

**When to Use "A"**

Use **"a"** before words that start with a **consonant sound** (not just a consonant letter).

✅ Examples:

* A dog
* A car
* A university (*"university" starts with a "juː" sound, which is a consonant sound, not a vowel sound*)

🚫 Incorrect: *A apple*

**When to Use "An"**

Use **"an"** before words that start with a **vowel sound** (A, E, I, O, U).

✅ Examples:

* An apple
* An elephant
* An hour (*silent "h" makes "hour" sound like it starts with a vowel: "our"*)

🚫 Incorrect: *An dog*

**2. Definite Article: "The"**

We use **"the"** when we talk about **something specific**.

✅ Examples:

* The sun (*There is only one sun.*)
* The Eiffel Tower (*A unique place.*)
* The book on the table (*A specific book, not just any book.*)

🚫 Incorrect: *I saw the dog today.* (*Which dog? If it is not clear, use "a" instead: "I saw a dog today."*)

**3. When to Use Articles (A, An, The) and When NOT to Use Them**

**A/An is used when:**

✔ Talking about something for the first time.

* *I saw a bird in the park.* (Any bird, not a specific one.)  
  ✔ Talking about jobs.
* *She is a doctor.*  
  ✔ Talking about a single, non-specific thing.
* *I need an umbrella.* (Any umbrella, not a specific one.)

**The is used when:**

✔ Talking about something already mentioned.

* *I saw a dog. The dog was black.*  
  ✔ Talking about something unique.
* *The moon is bright tonight.*  
  ✔ Talking about things everyone knows.
* *He plays the piano.*  
  ✔ With superlatives (most, best, worst, etc.).
* *He is the best player in the team.*

**No article is used when:**

🚫 Talking about general things.

* *I like pizza.* (Not **"the pizza"** unless you mean a specific one.)  
  🚫 Talking about countries, languages, meals, sports, or subjects.
* *She speaks English.* (*Not "the English" unless referring to people from England.*)
* *I have lunch at 1 PM.* (*Not "the lunch" unless it's a specific one.*)

**4. Practice Exercises**

1️**Fill in the blanks with "a," "an," or "the":**

1. I saw \_\_\_ elephant at the zoo. An
2. He is reading \_\_\_ interesting book. An
3. We went to \_\_\_ park yesterday. the
4. She is \_\_\_ engineer. An
5. I bought \_\_\_ apple and \_\_\_ banana. An/ a

2️ **Choose the correct sentence:**  
A) I saw a sun in the sky.  
B) I saw the sun in the sky.

A) She is an university student.  
B) She is a university student.

A) We had a dinner at 7 PM.  
B) We had dinner at 7 PM.

**3 Instructions:** Each sentence below has **one mistake** with articles. Find and correct it.

1. I have an dog. a
2. She is a actress.
3. We went to a London last year.
4. I saw an European tourist in the museum.
5. Mount Everest is the highest mountain in The world.

**6 Picture Description**

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