

Chapter 5-1

Articles (a, an, the)

1. What Are Articles?

Articles are a type of **determiner**. They come **before nouns** and give information about it.

There are **three articles in English**:

Article	Type
a	indefinite article [不定冠詞]
an	indefinite article
the	definite article [定冠詞]

Example:

- I saw **a dog**.
- She ate **an apple**.
- **The teacher** is speaking.

2. Using 'a', 'an' and 'the'

We use **a/an** when we talk about **something general** or **something for the first time** [首次提到一件事].

1) Use 'a'

Use **'a'** before words that start with a **consonant sound** [輔音].

Examples:

- a book
- a car
- a teacher
- a dog

2) Use 'an'

Use **'an'** before words that start with a **vowel sound** [元音]..

Vowel sounds: **a, e, i, o, u**

Examples:

- an apple
- an orange
- an elephant
- an umbrella

Important: Sound, not spelling 請注意，是單詞開頭字母的讀音，不是拼寫

Example:

- **an hour** (hour begins with vowel sound) **hour** 中的 **h** 是沒發出來，所以起開頭音是 'a'
- **a university** [大學] (university begins with /y/ sound) **university** 的開頭音是 'ju'

Additional examples for you to note:

a	Euro [歐元]
	European country [歐洲國家]
	one-..... [一.....]
	• one-off payment [一次性支付]
	• one-time fee [一次性費用]
	• one-year contract [一年合同]
	once-..... [...一次...]
	• once-in-a-lifetime opportunity [千載難逢的機會]
	unique [獨特的 ...]
	• unique person
	union [聯盟]
	unit
	useful [有用的 ...]
	• useful tool [有用的工具]
	User [用戶]
	UFO [不明飛行物]
	U-turn [U 形轉彎]

an	honour [榮譽]
	honest [誠實的....]
	• honest person
	heir [繼承]
	<i>most abbreviation that starts with F, H, L, M, N, R, S, X:</i> [以 F、H、L、M、N、R、S、X 開頭的縮寫]：
	• FBI agent [聯邦調查局探員] (Federal Bureau of Investigation)
	• HR [人事部] manager (Human Resources)
	• LED light [燈] (Light Emitting Diode)
	• MBA programme [工商管理碩士課程] (Master of Business Administration)
	• NPO (Non-Profit Organisation) [非營利組織]
	• R&D department [研發部門] (Research & Development)
	• SME (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) [中小型企業]
	• X-Ray scan [X 光掃描]

3) Using 'the'

Use **the** when we talk about a specific thing [特定的 thing].

Examples:

- **The book** on the table is mine.
- **The teacher** is speaking.
- **The sun** [太陽] is very bright [亮] today.

Situations for using **the** [使用 **the** 的情況]:

1. Something specific

- The car outside is red. 特定的一輛車，不是泛指任何車。

2. Something already mentioned 前面已提到的事物

- I saw a dog. **The dog** was very big. 首次提到時用 'a'，後面再次提及，已被限定，所以用 'the'

3. Things everyone knows 大家都知道的事物

- the sun
- the moon [月亮]
- the internet [互聯網]

3. No Article 零冠詞

Sometimes we **do not use an article** [不使用冠詞].

Examples:

- I like **music**.
- She studies **English**.
- They eat **breakfast** at 7.

Often used with:

- general ideas 一般概念
- languages 語言名稱
- meals 三餐名稱
- plural nouns in general 一般的 plural nouns

Example:

- **Dogs** are friendly [友好的].

4. Quick Comparison

Sentence	Meaning
I saw a dog .	any [任何一個/無特定的] dog
I saw the dog .	a specific dog

Example: I bought **a book**. **The book** is interesting.