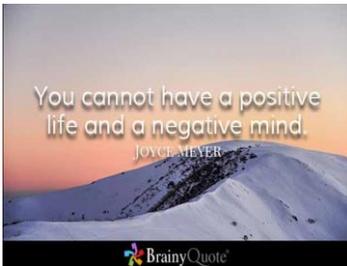


# Articles – A, An, The

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Articles are ‘labels’ which are used (or not used) for nouns. These labels establish the type of noun used and follow the rules as to the ‘necessary grammar’ to be followed.

“**I have an experience**” – relating to work.

“**Can I have a still water**” – in a restaurant.

“**An individuals....**” - talking about person/people?

**The Italy** – talking about a country.

Above are some of the **incorrect uses**, which Filipinos (and others) make for the ‘definite and indefinite articles in English.

The main issues are:

**Uncountable nouns. The indefinite articles ‘A’ and ‘An’ can never be used with uncountable nouns.**

Halimbawa: **An oil, a furniture, an information, a software, a traffic.... Are ALL INCORRECT!!**

**The definite article ‘The’ can be used with uncountable nouns to express the ‘specific’ nature of the item.**

Halimbawa: **The water in my pond** (we are only talking about the specific water in my pond, not any other water). Here we use ‘the’ to apply a ‘label’ which means ‘specifically this one’

**The information I received about my job** (we are talking about ‘specific’ information, not information in general).

REMEMBER; ‘The’ means... ONLY ONE, or SPECIFICALLY THIS ONE.

Another vitally important reminder is that **‘A’ & ‘An’ can never be used with plural and countable nouns.**

**A men, An oranges, A cars, An elephants.** This grammar you should already know if you are going to take IELTS, but some do not, and this reminder is for them.

**As this document is only a guide to help you understand how to use articles, you can view the attached documents and use them to practice using articles correctly.**

In Tagalog, ‘ang’ and ‘ng’ are not used in the same way in English. Articles are not used primarily as subject and object ‘markers’ as they are in Tagalog, therefore, trying to translate from Tagalog to English directly, will not work.

A simple rule to remember to aid you quickly is:

‘A’ & ‘An’ introduce a noun into a sentence, after the noun is introduced, we use ‘the’ because we are now talking about this specific one (noun).

Examples;

A man and a dog are on the beach (they both have been introduced into the sentence with an indefinite article ‘a’). The man is sunbathing, and the dog is swimming in the ocean ( after being introduced, we are now only talking specifically about ‘this man’ and ‘this dog’ not any other man or dog.)

There is a man and a woman who live in my street. The man lives at number 60, and the woman lives at number 32.

[A, An, and The General use](#) (Exercises are contained. Please practice).

[The 1st use](#) (1<sup>st</sup> of 2 documents covering the use of ‘the’)

[The 2nd use.](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> document covering the use of ‘the’)

[Geographical names with/without ‘the’](#) (Oceans, mountains, countries etc...)

[Street names, buildings and others with/without ‘the’](#) (other references).

If you do the exercises and want them to be checked, please send them to [teacher@dumagueteielts.com](mailto:teacher@dumagueteielts.com) and ensure that your name, the title of the exercise, and your e-mail address are clear for me to see. If they are not included your exercise will not be checked or returned.