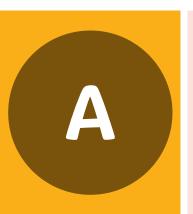# When to Use
A, An, or The

Articles in English are modifiers. They are used in front of a noun (person, place, or thing). They are used to let us know if the noun is specific or general.

indefinite

A

It is used in front of a singular, not specific noun.

It is used in front of nouns that begin with a **consonant** sound.

Examples:

a **b**ear (any bear)

a **t**ree (any tree)

An

It is used in front of a singular, not specific noun.

It is used in front of nouns that begin with a **vowel** sound.

Examples:

an **e**lephant (any elephant)

an **a**pple (any apple)

definite

The

It is used in front of singular or plural nouns.

It is used to show the **specificity** of an item or items.

Examples:

the telephone (a specific telephone)

the man (a specific man)

twinkl