

**Module:** English

**Branch:** Finance and International Trade

**Level:** master one

**Lecture: The definite and indefinite articles (a/an/the)**

- ▶ **a/an** = indefinite article that refers any noun.
- ▶ **The** = definite article that refers to a certain or specific noun.

**For example:**

- “Let's see **a** movie” means any\_movie. (Indefinite)
- “Let's see **the** movie” means a certain movie. (Definite)

**1)-The use of “a”:**

- ▶ “A “is used in front of singular countable nouns (a person, animal, or thing), which are not specific.
- ▶ We do not use “a” before uncountable or plural nouns.
- ▶ If a noun starts with a consonant sound (b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, etc), “a” comes before the noun.

**Eg: a dog, a boy, a teacher, a girl, a lesson, etc.**

**2) - The use of “an”:**

- ▶ “An” used in front of singular countable nouns which are not specific.
- ▶ We do not use “an” before uncountable or plural nouns.
- ▶ If the noun starts with a vowel sound (a, i, o, u, e), “an” comes before the noun.

**Eg: an umbrella, an image, an hour, an author, an owl, etc.**

**3)- The use of “the”:**

- ▶ “The” is used when something we are talking about is clear.

For example: **The sun** comes up every day.

- ▶ “**The**” is used when there is only one of a particular thing.

**Eg:** We went to **the most expensive city** in the world.

▪ **The + adjective**

▶ “**The**” is used with some adjectives (without a noun).

For example: **the young, the old, the sick** (The meaning is always plural). Eg: Do you think that **the rich** should give money to **the poor**?

▶ “**The**” is used with most nationality words which refer to the people of a specific country.

For example: **the Canadians, the Japanese.**

▶ *Certain nouns use “the”:*

- Names of rivers, oceans and seas: **the Mississippi, the Atlantic.**

- Points on the globe: **the Equator, the South Pole.**

- Geographical areas: **the Middle East, the West**, as well as **deserts, forests, gulfs,**  
and **peninsulas.**