

***Tikrit University / College of Education for Women***

***Department of English***

***Course: Grammar***

***By: Asst. Lecturer Sara Muayad Sultan***

***Target: 3rd Year***

**CN: Grammar / Articles**

The English articles (i.e., definite *the*, indefinite *a/an*, and unstressed *some* /səm/ --as well as the use of no article at all, zero article) are part of a large system of reference and determination.

**Pronunciation of the Articles**

- 1- The definite article (*the*) has four different pronunciations, yet the two pronunciations that are most frequent and occur in normal speech in unstressed form are:

- /ðə/ before a constant sound

- the book
- the unit
- the pen

- /ði/ before a vowel sound

- the egg
- the orange
- the apple

- Emphatic use of the definite article is pronounced as stressed /ði/:

- Citation:

e.g.: The word ***the*** has four pronunciations. (stressed /ðə/ or /ði/)

- Emphatic:

e.g.: I met **THE** Julia Roberts. (the actress, not someone else with the same name) (stressed /ði/)

**2- The two indefinite articles *a* and *an* have the following pronunciations:**

- /ə/ before a consonant sound

- a book, a unit, a student

- /ən/ before a vowel sound
  - an apple, an idea, an ear

## Article Usage

1- The definite article **the** is used with:

Specific Reference	Proper Nouns	Plural Names	Geographical Names	Public Institutions	Newspapers
<p>-<b>The</b> <u>house on the corner</u> is for sale.</p> <p>-I adore <b>the</b> <u>glass of Venice</u>.</p>	<p><b>The</b> Times,</p> <p><b>The</b> Guardian,</p> <p><b>The</b> District of Columbia</p>	<p><b>the</b> Netherlands,</p> <p><b>the</b> Midlands,</p> <p><b>the</b> Wilson family</p>	<p><b>the</b> Pacific,</p> <p><b>the</b> Avon,</p> <p><b>the</b> Baltic,</p> <p><b>the</b> Erie Canal</p>	<p>hotels and restaurants,</p> <p>theatres,</p> <p>museums</p>	<p><b>the</b> Economist,</p> <p><b>the</b> New York Times</p>

2- The indefinite articles **a/an** are used with:

- **Singular count nouns:**

a boy, a hospital, an apple, a puppy, an egg

- **Generic reference:**

- *A cat is a domestic animal.*

- *An intruder has stolen a vase.*

- **Proper Name that means {a certain} :**

- *A Mr. Thomas wants to speak to you.*

3- The zero article **Ø** is used with:

- **Non-count nouns:**

- He likes music.
- I need some sugar.

- Common nouns with verbs like *(be and go and with prepositions)*:

- **(Seasons):** In winter we go skiing.
- **(Institutions):** be in bed, go to church, go to hospital
- **(Means of Transport with *by*):** leave by boat, come by train, travel by train
- **(Times of the day and night with *at, before, by, after*):** at sunset, before morning came, by day
- **(Meals):** have breakfast, after dinner, at lunch, stay for supper
- **(Illnesses):** appendicitis, anemia, diabetes, mumps
- **(Parallel structures):** arm in arm, from right to left, face to face

- Proper nouns: personal names, calendar items, geographical names, personal names