



GENERAL APTITUDE

ENGLISH

STUDY MATERIAL

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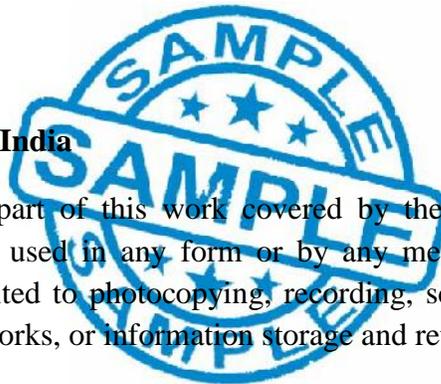
GENERAL APTITUDE ENGLISH

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1

ARTICLES

A, An and The are called **Articles** and they are used in a sentence **to make a noun indefinite or definite**.

For e.g.

- **A beggar** has stolen your shirt.
- This is **the house** in which I live.

(**A and An**) are called **indefinite articles** because **it makes a noun indefinite**. In sentence 1 **a beggar** means any beggar, we are indefinite about him.

(**The**) is called **definite article** because it makes a noun definite. In sentence 2 **the house** means a definite house where I live.

Use of the Indefinite Article: A and An

1. The **indefinite article** is used before **singular countable nouns**, For e.g.

A girl likes a toy.

A dog is an animal.

Note: Problems based on this rule is given in exam.

- Ravi prefers/self employment/to **job**/in any office/no error.
A should be used before job because it is a singular countable noun.
- It being **rainy day**/most of the people/out on the street were/carrying umbrellas/no error.
A rainy day should be used.
- Summons/was served/on Ram/no error.
Summons is singular countable noun so, a should be used before it. Summons – singular/
Summonses – plural.
- Laser beams can carry/long distance signals in way/somewhat similar to radio waves/no error.
Way is singular countable noun, (a) should be used before it.

2. When a **singular countable noun begins with a consonant sound, we put (a) before it**. For e.g.

➤ **A boy, a woman, a horse, and a toy**.

3. **When a singular countable noun begins with a vowel sound, we put (an) before it**. For e.g.

➤ **An ass, an enemy, an ink-pot, and an orange**.

Note: Problems based on this rule is asked in exam.

- I am not/wealthy so I/cannot afford to buy/a expensive car/no error.
An expensive should be used instead of a expensive.
- He had no/illusion of being/either a distinguished writer/or a editor/no error.
An editor should be used instead of a editor.

4. **When a singular countable noun begins with the initial consonant h but pronounced with a vowel sound, (An) is put before it.**

➤ **an hour, an honest, an heir and an honour**.

5. **A yard, a university professor, a union, a unicorn begin with a consonant sound, that of yu, (a) is put before it.**

➤ **A one-rupee note, such a one, a one-eyed man, a one way ticket, (one) begins with the consonant sound of w. (A) is put before it.**

6. Whether a/an is used before initials depends on how the initial is pronounced.

A, E, F, H, I, L, M, N, O, R, S, and X all begin with a vowel sound so, (an) is put before it.

➤ an M.P, an M.A, an NCC, an MLA, an X-RAY, an FIR, and an SI.

Note: In using a/an before a word the written form is not important but the spoken form is important.

7. A/An is used before a name of a profession.

- He is a teacher.
- She is a nurse.
- I am an Engineer.

8. Some idiomatic uses of a/an.**(a) A/An is always used in these phrases. For example**

Eat a humble pie, in a temper, in a rage, in a mood, in a hurry, in a dilemma, as a rule, as a matter of fact, at a cost, at a loss, at a stone's throw, a short time ago, a short while ago, a love of, a horror of, after a delay of, have a cold, catch a hold, (**but catch cold also**), have a headache, get a headache, have a fever, have a pain, have an opportunity, have a chance, have a pain, have a cold, have a cough, in a nutshell, in a fix, have a drink, have a rest, have a talk, have a sleep, have a bath, have an interest in, have a pride in, keep a promise, keep an appointment, make a deal with, make an excuse, make a noise, take a risk, at a premium, have a swim, go for a swim, have a meal, take a meal, take courage, (**but take a courage**), take a rest, take a vacation.

(b) A/An is also used with some uncountable nouns. For example

Have a beer, have a shower, have a shave, have a conversation, have a dream, have a chat, have a quarrel, have a fight, have a good day, have a bad day, have a disagreement, have a try, have a good education, have a good knowledge, in a diagram.

(c) A/An is also used with some expressions denoting number and quantity. For e.g.

A lot of, a great deal of, a good deal of, a large quantity of, a large amount of, a great many of, a good many of, a number of, a large number of, a great number of.

Note: In idiomatic expressions, (a) is removed and given as problem.

- I.** Ravi's habit of/delaying his work/put his colleagues/to lot of trouble/no error.
A lot of trouble should be used. Lots of trouble is also correct.
- II.** Even though our team took the field with great confidence, the opposition made them eat the humble pie.
(a) A humble pie (b) Humble pie (c) Humble pies (d) No improvement

The correct answer is (a)

USE OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE (THE)
--

The Definite Article (the) is used:

1. When a **singular countable noun** is meant to **represent a whole class or species**; for e.g.
 - **The cow** is a useful animal.
 - **The tiger** is a dangerous animal.

2. Before some **proper names**, these kinds of **places** and **names**:
 - **Oceans and seas**, e. g. **the Pacific, the black Sea.**
 - **Rivers**, e.g. **the Ganga, the Nile.**
 - **Canals**, e.g. **the Suez Canal.**
 - **Deserts**, e.g. **the Sahara.**
 - **Groups of islands**, e.g. **the West Indies.**

Exceptions: Java, Sumatra, Ceylon, Sicily.

 - **Mountain-ranges**, e.g. **the Himalayas, the Alps.**

Exceptions: (The) is not used before peaks of mountain. For example.
Mount Everest, Mount Abu, Nanda Devi, Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, Mount Fuji, Mount Olympus.

Exceptions: A very few names of countries, which include words like **republic, federation** and **kingdom** (e.g. **The Irish Republic, The United Kingdom**) also: **The Ukraine, The Netherlands** (and its seat of government **The Hague**), **The United States, The Sudan, The U.S.S.R., The Yemen, The Soviet Union.**

 - **Bays**, e.g. **The Bay of Bengal, The Bay of Biscay.**

Exception: Hudson Bay.

3. Before the names of **Religious books**; as,
 - **The Vedas, the Puranas, the Iliad, the Ramayana.**
 - **But we say-**Homer's Iliad, Valmiki's Ramayana.

4. Before names of things **unique of their kind**; as,
 - **The sun, the sky, the ocean, the sea, the earth, the east, the west.**

5. Before **Superlatives**; For e.g.
 - Rahul is **the tallest** boy in the class.
 - Mr Jha is **the oldest** man in the village.

Note: Problems based on this is asked in exam.

 - Sunil is/ a best student/in our class/at present/no error.

(The) should be used before best not a.

6. With **ordinals** as,
 - He was **the first** man to arrive.
 - He missed **the last** train.

7. Before **musical instruments**; as,
 - He can play **the flute.**
 - Can you play **the table?**

8. Before an **adjective when the noun is understood**; as,
 - **The poor** are always with us.
 - **The rich** should help **the poor.**

9. Before the names of the **parts of the body**.
 - They hit him on **the head.**
 - He was wounded in **the leg.**

10. To **make a common noun** out of a **proper noun**.
 - He is **the Tagore** of Hindi poetry.

(He is to Hindi poetry as Tagore is to Bengali poetry).

11. Before the **religious group**.

- **The Hindus, the Sikhs, the Christians, the Muslims.**
- 12. Before the Armed Forces and words that represents Law and Order.**
 - **The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Police.**
- 13. Before the names of political parties.**
 - **The Communist party, the Labour party, the BJP, the Congress.**
- 14. Before a physical position.**
 - **The top, the bottom, the back, the side.**
- 15. Before the names denoting nationality.**
 - **The Indians, the French, the Japanese, the Americans.**
- 16. (The) is not used before a comparative degree if it is followed by than or to.**
 - He is **better than** you (**Not the better than**)
 - She is **senior to** you (**Not the senior to**)

Note: Problem based on this is asked in exam.

 - The interviewer asked me/if I knew that/Kalidasa was the greater/than any other poet/no error.
The greater should not be used because it is followed by comparative + than.
- 17. (The) is used before comparative degree if comparative degree is used with (of the two).**
 - He is **the better of the two** boys
- 18. The + comparative + subject + verb, the + comparative + subject + verb is used.**
 - **The more** he gets, **the more** he wants.

Note: Problems based on this is frequently asked in exam.

- (i) In a mountaineering expedition/higher you go from the base camp/the colder you feel/no error.
The higher should be used.
- (ii) The greater the demand, higher the price.
(a) High (b) The high (c) The higher (d) No improvement
The correct answer is (c).

- 19. If the construction of the sentence is Noun + of + Noun, then (the) is used before the first noun.**
 - **The student of this class** is naughty. ➤ He likes **the tea of India.**

Note: Problems based on this is frequently asked in exam.

- The teacher drew/**an attention of the/boys** to the importance/of regular practice/no error.
(The) should be used instead of an attention.

Note: (The) is used with these words when we refer to them as a **definite place, building or object rather than to the normal activity** that goes on there; for e.g.

- **The school** is very **near** to my home. ➤ I **met** him at **the church**.
- I went to **the hospital** to see my uncle.

4. **Before the names of games.** For e.g.

- They play **football, cricket, tennis, volleyball**.

5. It is **not put before a noun** if it is preceded by the following words, **appoint, declare, elect and made**.

Wrong: They **elected** him **the president**.

Right: They **elected** him **president**.

Wrong: We **declared** him **a captain**.

Right: We **declared** him **captain**.

Wrong: He was **appointed** **a teacher**.

Right: He was **appointed** **teacher**.

Wrong: We **made** him **the monitor**.

Right: We **made** him **monitor**.

6. **Most** if followed by a noun or of is **not preceded** by an article.

Wrong: **The most** birds can fly.

Right: **Most** birds can fly.

Wrong: **The most of** the girls are here.

Right: **Most of** the girls are here.

7. It is **not put before a noun** if it is preceded by the following words, **type of, kind of, sort of, variety of, a number of, a large number of, a lot of, lots of, plenty of, a great deal of**.

Wrong: I want this **type of** a gun.

Right: I want this **type of** gun.

Wrong: He is a different **kind of** a man.

Right: He is a different **kind of** man.

Wrong: We don't like this **sort of** a boy.

Right: We don't like this **sort of** boy.

Note: A/An can be used with **kind of, type of, sort of**, if the sentence is interrogative.

- What **type of** a singer is he? or What **type of** singer is he?

8. It is **not put before a noun** if it is preceded by the following words, **rank of, title of, post of, position of**.

Wrong: Rakesh is promoted to the **rank of the** Major.

Right: Rakesh is promoted to the **rank of** Major.

Wrong: He was given the **title of a** Raja.

Right: He was given the **title of** Raja.

9. It is **not put before the names of the month (January, February) and days of the week (Sunday, Monday)**.

Wrong: He came in **the** March.

Right: He came in **March**.

Wrong: She left home on **a** Sunday.

Right: She left home on **Sunday**.

10. It is **not put before the names of a particular subject**.

Wrong: He is a student of **the** geography.

Right: He is a student of **geography**.

Wrong: She got good marks in **a** chemistry.

Right: She got good marks in **chemistry**.

11. It is **not put before a plural noun**.

Wrong: **The** Cows give milk.

Right: **Cows** give milk.

Wrong: **A** Dogs are animals.

Right: **Dogs** are animals.

12. It is **not put before a proper noun**.

Wrong: This is **a** Rahul.

Right: This is **Rahul**.

Wrong: **The** Delhi is a city.

Right: **Delhi** is a city.

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13. It is **not put** before **uncountable noun**.

Wrong: **The Milk** is good for us.

Right: **Milk** is good for us.

Wrong: **A Gold** is yellow.

Right: **Gold** is yellow.

But when used in a **particular** sense (**the**) is **put** before it.

Right: **The milk** of this cow tastes good.

Right: **The gold** of this ring is yellow.



14. It is **not put** before **news, information, furniture and advice** as they are **singular uncountable nouns**.

Wrong: This is a good **news**.

Right: This is good **news**.

Wrong: This is a useful **information**.

Right: This is useful **information**.

Wrong: I have a new **furniture**.

Right: I have new **furniture**.

Wrong: You should take a legal **advice**.

Right: You should take legal **advice**.

15. **Fear, beauty, hope and death** are **uncountable nouns**. **A/An** is **not put** before them.

Wrong: He was pale with **the fear**.

Right: He was pale with **fear**.

Wrong: **A Beauty** is only skin deep.

Right: **Beauty** is only skin deep.

Wrong: **A Death** comes to all.

Right: **Death** comes to all.

Wrong: We live in a **hope**.

Right: We live in **hope**.

16. **Article** is **not put** before a **noun**, if it is preceded by a **possessive adjective** like (**My, Your, our,** etc.), a **demonstrative adjective** like (**this, that, these, those, no, any, other, any other, etc.**) and a **distributive adjective** like (**each, either, neither, every, etc.**)

➤ This is **my house** (**Not a/the house**)

➤ **This house** is mine (**Not a/the house**)

➤ **Each boy** was ready (**Not a/the boy**)

17. If **man, woman, life, death, science, art, nature** is used in **general sense**. **Article** is **not used** before them.

Note: **Problem based on this is asked in exam.**