

English for Study Skills

Pre-Sessional English

articles

~~"I have car"~~

"I have a car."

sentences

SVO subject - verb - object

(Thai, Chinese & English)

The boy kicked the ball

The boy (S) kicked (V) the ball (O)

nouns - boy, ball, verb - kicked

using articles

These are the **noun phrases**

- ▶ Article + noun (**the boy, the ball**)
- ▶ Article + noun (**a boy, a ball**)
- ▶ Article + noun (**an artist, an apple**)

articles

Articles - examples

Fill in the blanks with 'a', 'an', or 'the':

I have _____ cat and _____ dog.

Which is the correct article in the sentence:

I want the apple / I want an apple.

we use 'a' or 'an' before a noun
or, we use 'the' before the noun

Articles

Choose a number
(any number)

1 2 3 4 5

Choose the number
(the number)

a 2 u Q !

Articles

Choose a country that you have lived

(answer could be any country - that you have lived)

e.g. Ireland, England, Thailand

Choose the country that you live

(answer could only be one country - that you live)

e.g. Thailand

Articles

Definite articles

the

Indefinite articles

a

an

Articles - with plural nouns

- ▶ the chairs
- ▶ the buses
- ▶ the babies
- ▶ the men
- ▶ the boxes
- ▶ the buses
- ▶ the brushes
- the boxes
- the buses
- the brushes
- the classes
- the women
- the teeth
- the mice

Plural

Definite articles

The apple

The apples

The car

The cars

Indefinite articles

An apple

~~An apples~~

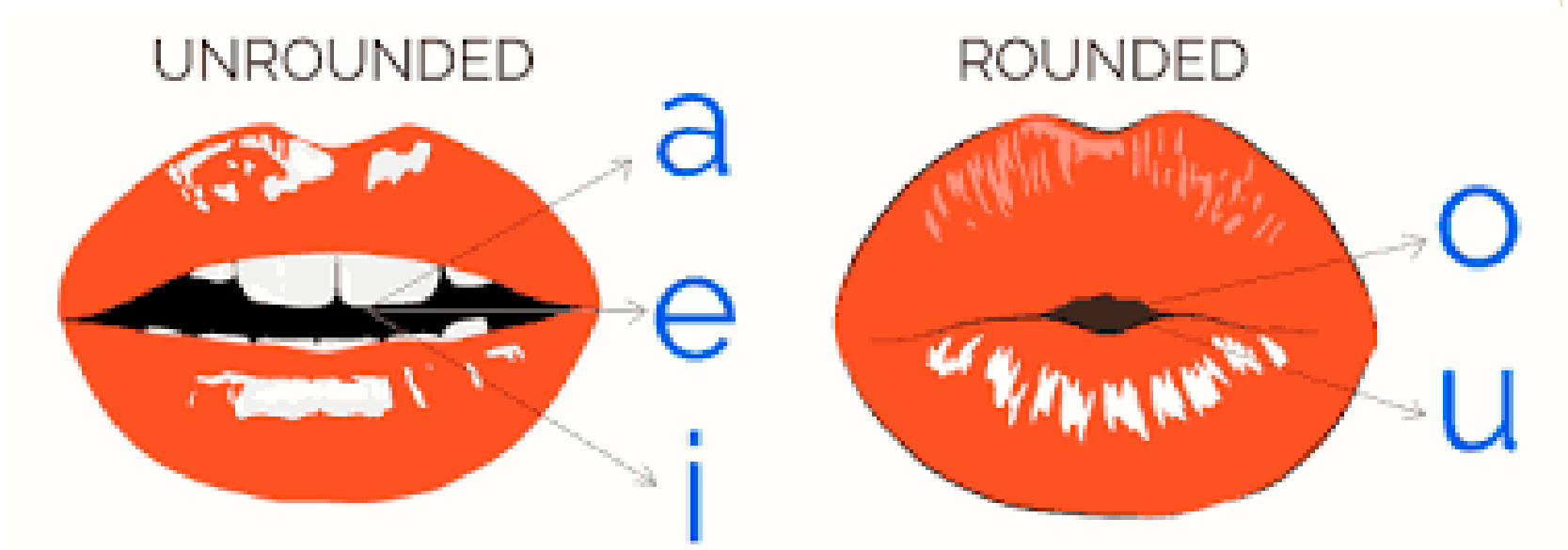
A car

~~An cars~~

An

an - use before a vowel sound

a - e - i - o - u **sound**



an

an - use before a vowel sound

a - e - i - o - u **sound**

An **e**lephant

An **a**pple

An **u**mbrella

An **i**ce-cream

An **o**range

A University

A user

A unit

An **h**our

An **F**BI agent

An **h**onorable man

Articles an

U

An **u**mbrella

U-sound

An umbrella

U

A unicorn

Yu-sound

A unicorn

an

N

A nut

N

An NBA program

N-sound

A nut

En-sound

An NBA program

Articles - a, an, the

a

- ▶ I am a teacher,
- ▶ she is a student,
- ▶ he is also a student,
- ▶ I went for a coffee,
- ▶ have a nice day

(not a vowel sound)

- a university,
- a uniform,
- a Euro

an if word 'sounds' like a vowel
(beginning)

- an umbrella,
- an onion,
- an apple,
- an iron,
- an elephant

(vowel sound - not a vowel)

- an hour,
- an honour,
- an MBA

article exercises

exercise #1
enter the article

complete the sentence with the correct article (a or an)

I bought ___ **a** ___ new car yesterday

It's ___ **an** ___ old film

1. She's reading _____ interesting book
2. They've got _____ house in Spain
3. It's _____ cheap restaurant
4. He's _____ Italian businessman
5. The journey took _____ hour
6. We've lost _____ black cat
7. I want to buy _____ umbrella
8. It was _____ difficult exam

exercise #2
select the article

complete the sentences using the correct article:

this is (a | ~~an~~ | ~~the~~) good example

1. (a | an | the) cat is sleeping on the couch.
2. I saw (a | an | the) elephant at the zoo yesterday.
3. We waited for (a | an | the) hour for the start.
4. We stayed in (a | an | the) apartment near the city center.
5. Let's choose (a | an | the) university to visit.
6. He is (a | an | the) intelligent student.
7. (a | an | the) sun is shining brightly today.
8. She ate (a | an | the) oats for breakfast this morning.

complete the sentences using the correct article:

this is (a | ~~an~~ | ~~the~~) good example

1. (a | an | the) cat is sleeping on the couch.
2. I saw (a | an | the) elephant at the zoo yesterday.
3. We waited for (a | an | the) hour for the start.
4. We stayed in (a | an | *the*) apartment near the city center.
5. Let's choose (a | an | the) university to visit.
6. He is reading (a | an | the) interesting book right now.
7. (a | an | *the*) sun is shining brightly today.
8. She ate (~~a~~ | ~~an~~ | *the*) oats for breakfast this morning



exercise #3
spot the errors

Correct the sentence or put a tick (✓) if the sentence is correct

All students should go to the classroom ✓
if ~~an~~^a student is late then they will have to catch up

1. I need to buy some milk from the store.
2. Could you pass me a salt, please?
3. He is studying to become the doctor.
4. Could you pass me the remote control, please?
5. I saw the interesting movie last night.
6. She bought the beautiful dress for the party.
7. I found the old book in the attic.

Articles - exercise #2

1. I need to buy some milk from the store. ✓
2. Could you pass me **the** salt, please?
3. He is studying to become **a** doctor.
4. Could you pass me the remote control, please? ✓
5. I saw **an** interesting movie last night.
6. She bought **a** beautiful dress for the party. ✓ / X
7. I found **an** old book in the attic. ✓ / X

the beautiful dress is also ok

the old book is also ok

word order

common difficulty

subject-verb agreement

verbs - single and plural

1. Learn - Learns / Learn
2. Study - Studies / Study
3. Attend - Attends / Attend
4. Excel - Excels / Excel
5. Participate - Participates / Participate
6. Submit - Submits / Submit
7. Research - Researches / Research
8. Present - Presents / Present
9. Discuss - Discusses / Discuss
10. Collaborate - Collaborates / Collaborate
11. Achieve - Achieves / Achieve
12. Graduate - Graduates / Graduate

verbs - single

- ▶ She **learns** new concepts quickly.
- ▶ He **studies** diligently for his exams.
- ▶ John **attends** all his classes regularly.
- ▶ Sarah **excels** in mathematics.
- ▶ The student **participates** in group discussions.
- ▶ Mary **submits** her assignments on time.
- ▶ Tom **researches** various topics for his project.
- ▶ The speaker **presents** an engaging lecture.
- ▶ Anne **discusses** the importance of teamwork.
- ▶ The student **collaborates** with others in a group.
- ▶ James **achieves** great grades in all his subjects.
- ▶ Emily **graduates** today.

verbs - plral

- ▶ They **learn** new concepts quickly.
- ▶ We **study** diligently for our exams.
- ▶ The students **attend** all their classes regularly.
- ▶ The children **excel** in mathematics.
- ▶ The students **participate** actively in group discussions.
- ▶ The students **submit** their assignments on time.
- ▶ The researchers **research** various topics for their project.
- ▶ The speakers **present** engaging lectures.
- ▶ We **discuss** the importance of teamwork.
- ▶ The students **collaborate** on group projects.
- ▶ The students **achieve** excellent grades in all their subjects.
- ▶ They will **graduate** with honors.

subject-verb agreement

- ▶ the verb in a sentence agrees with its subject
- ▶ in terms of number (singular or plural)

subject-verb agreement

1. The dog barks at the mailman.
 - ▶ **Singular subject** "dog" agrees with the **singular verb** "barks."
2. The students study hard for their exams.
 - ▶ **Plural subject** "students" agrees with the **plural verb** "study."
3. My friend and I enjoy playing basketball together.
 - ▶ **Plural subject** "friend and I" agrees with the **plural verb** "enjoy."
4. The bookshelf in the corner holds many books.
 - ▶ **Singular subject** "bookshelf" agrees with the **singular verb** "holds."
5. Every morning, the sun rises in the east.
 - ▶ **Singular subject** "sun" agrees with the **singular verb** "rises."

subject-verb agreement

Example:

~~"The group of students were studying for their exams."~~

"The group of students was studying for its exams."

one group was ...

two groups were ...

subject-verb agreement

Example:

~~The cat, along with the dogs, chase mice in the garden."~~

"The cat, along with the dogs, chases mice in the garden."

one cat chases ...

two cats chase ...

subject-verb agreement

Example:

~~"Someone left their jacket on the chair."~~

"Someone left his or her jacket on the chair."

some(one) left his/her ...

some people left their ...



exercise #1
choose the correct verb
form

choose the correct verb form

1. The cat **run / runs**
2. She **walk / walks** to school every day.
3. They **eat / eats** dinner at home.
4. He **play / plays** soccer on weekends.
5. The students **do / does** their homework.
6. She **read / reads** the book."
7. We **is / are** going to the beach.
8. The birds **fly / flies** in the sky.
9. He **sing / sings** beautifully.
10. My friend **don't / doesn't** like coffee.



exercise #2
**choose the correct verb
form**

choose the correct verb form

1. The dog and the cat **play / plays**.
2. They **meet / met** in the park yesterday.
3. She **write / writes** poems.
4. The flowers **smell / smells** wonderful.
5. The students **take / takes** a test this week.
6. He **sing / sings** his favorite song at the concert.
7. The company **has/ have** many employees.
8. The sun **shine / shines** brightly in the sky.
9. They **study / studies** together.
10. My sister **don't / doesn't** like spicy food.

adjectives

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of orange and yellow, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the page.

sentences

SVO subject - verb - object

(Thai, Chinese & English)

The boy kicked the ball

The boy (S) kicked (V) the ball (O)

nouns - boy, ball, verb - kicked

Noun phrases

These are the **noun phrases**

- ▶ Article + noun (**the boy, the ball**)
- ▶ Article + noun (**a boy, a ball**)
- ▶ Article + noun (**an artist, an apple**)

Noun phrases with a description

We can add a description of the noun

- ▶ Article + noun (**the boy, the ball**)
- ▶ Article + adjective + noun (**the tall boy, the blue ball**)
- ▶ Article + noun (**a boy, a ball**)
- ▶ Article + adjective + noun (**a young boy, an orange ball**)
- ▶ Article + noun (**an artist, an apple**)
- ▶ Article + adjective + noun (**a good artist, a tasty apple**)

Note: the article is an if followed by an adjective with a vowel sound

- ▶ **a** tasty apple, **an** orange ball

Adjectives

To add more information to a word, to describe

the blue pen

John is my best friend

The big park was fun

What is an Adjective

The Adjective is one of the parts of speech that describes some extra information about the noun or a pronoun in a sentence.

Size	Texture	Shape	Fellings	Time
✓ Big	✓ Smooth	✓ Circle	✓ Angry	✓ Ancient
✓ Small	✓ Soft	✓ Square	✓ Happy	✓ Early
✓ Large	✓ Hard	✓ Flat	✓ Funny	✓ Fast
✓ Huge	✓ Woven	✓ Sphere	✓ Kind	✓ late
✓ Little	✓ Rough	✓ Round	✓ Silly	✓ quick
✓ Short	✓ Slippery	✓ Cone	✓ Sweet	✓ Rapid
✓ Tall	✓ Fuzzy	✓ Oval	✓ Gentle	✓ Slow
✓ Tiny	✓ Crunchy	✓ Wide	✓ Sad	✓ Swift



exercise #3
choose the correct
adjective

B Put adjectives from the box in these sentences.

hungry new terrible ~~expensive~~ sad wonderful Italian fresh difficult

- 0 Gold rings are normally expensive.
- 1 This food smells _____! I love fish and chips.
- 2 It was a _____ exam. I'm sure I haven't passed.
- 3 I've just bought a _____ sports car.
- 4 I met my wife in Rome, but she isn't _____.
- 5 He looks _____. I don't think he likes his job.
- 6 Are you _____? Shall I buy some sandwiches?
- 7 This orange juice tastes _____. Is it _____?

order of adjectives

Noun phrases with a description

we can add many adjectives

the young boy kicked the ball

the young, tall boy kicked the ball

the seven-year-old boy kicked the ball

the boy kicked the round ball

the boy kicked the old, blue ball

the boy kicked the old, leather, blue ball

Adjectives - order

House - old, big, white

How do we know the order?

The big old white house

Adjectives - order

The big old white house



big
old

white



order

Determiner

Opinion

Size

Age

Shape

Color

Origin

Material

purpose

Adjectives - order

The big old white brick house

	order
<i>the</i>	Determiner
	Opinion
big	Size
old	Age
	Shape
white	Color
	Origin
brick	Material
	purpose

Adjectives - order

The big old tall
white brick house

the

big
old
tall
white

brick

order
Determiner
Opinion
Size
Age
Shape
Color
Origin
Material
purpose

examples

more opinion



more fact

the
beautiful
big
old
tall
white
Thai
brick
farm

order

Determiner

Opinion

Size

Age

Shape

Color

Origin

Material

purpose

Same group - use a comma

A tall, thin man

a

tall, thin

order

Determiner

Opinion

Size

Age

Shape

Color

Origin

Material

purpose

Adjectives- using a comma

Same 'category'

Try swapping them

A tall, thin man

A thin, tall man

called coordinated adjectives



exercise #3
choose the correct order
of adjectives

D Look at these sentences. If you think the adjectives are in the wrong order, change the order. If you think the order is correct, put a tick (✓).

0 She lost a gold, small ring at the disco yesterday night.

small, gold

0 I have an old, Italian painting in my living-room.

✓

1 I'm looking for my cotton, green shirt and my brown, leather shoes.

2 George has a Spanish, modern villa near the sea. He goes there every summer.

3 I live in an old, white house near the river. I've got a black, large dog!

4 I had an interesting talk with a Polish, young student last week.

5 We are having lunch in a big, Japanese, new restaurant in the centre of town.

6 I left all my books in a red, plastic bag on the bus. I was so stupid!

word order

Word order - examples

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence:

book / read / I / yesterday / a

Rearrange the words to make a question:

you / like / do / ice cream?

Word order - example #1

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence:

dinner / I / usually / eat / at home -> I usually eat dinner at home

1. homework / always / I / do / in the evening
2. favorite / my / color / blue / is
3. library / the / goes / every / Saturday / to / she
4. loves / she / to / listen / music / to / classical
5. study / they / together / often

Word order - example #2

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence:

At the beach / likes / to / swim / Sarah.

-> Sarah likes to swim at the beach.

1. to the movies / we / tonight / are / going
2. happy / always / is / in the morning / she
3. delicious / dinner / cooked / my mom / last night
4. his brother / always / plays / guitar / the
5. never / eats / vegetables / he

Thank you!
any questions?