



# The Sentence



## Warm-up



Identify these expressions as phrase (P), clause (C) or sentence (S).

1. Flowers bloom in spring.
2. in spring
3. sigh with relief
4. and we greeted each other
5. because it was raining
6. the plan of the city
7. at the station
8. Are you going to the mall?
9. until I come back
10. What a happy baby she is!

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Read these groups of words.

- leaking the is roof
- these made of are stone houses

These groups of words do not make any sense.

Now, read these sentences.

- The roof is leaking.
- These houses are made of stone.

These groups of words make complete sense.





A group of words that conveys complete sense is called a **sentence**. A sentence always begins with a capital letter and ends with a full stop, an exclamation mark or a question mark. It also has a subject and a verb.

Now, read these groups of words.

- a nice story
- a gang of thieves
- a beautiful dress

These groups of words make sense but not complete sense.



A group of words that conveys some sense but not complete sense is called a **phrase**. A phrase does not have a subject or a verb.

Now, read these groups of words.

- because it was raining
- and the thieves escaped
- but he went there anyway
- before they go to the airport

These groups of words make sense but not complete sense. Each group of words has a subject and a verb.



A group of words that conveys some sense but not complete sense, and also has a subject and a verb is called a **clause**.

Now, read these sentences. They are made up of two clauses.

- **Mr Jones asked him a question, but underline the highlighted words, without breaks.**
- **Call me after you come back from school.**
- **Since we were hungry, we stopped at a dhaba on the way.**
- **Although he was unwell, he went to school.**

In these sentences, the highlighted clauses can stand alone because they convey complete meaning. The underlined clauses cannot stand alone because they do not convey complete meaning. They depend on the highlighted clauses to make complete sense.



Clauses which convey complete meaning and can stand alone are called **main** or **independent clauses**. Clauses which depend on independent clauses to convey complete sense are called **subordinate** or **dependent clauses**.



**A. Circle the independent clauses and underline the dependent clauses.**

1. This is the house where my father was born.
2. God helps those who help themselves.
3. If you come early, we will play a few games on the computer.
4. I will go to Shimla when the weather is fine.
5. If we leave early for the station, we will not get much traffic.
6. When the teacher entered the class, he found that it was very noisy.
7. I didn't study because I forgot I had an exam today.
8. I will call you when the film is over.
9. I planted the flowers because I like flowers.
10. I could not go for a jog because I woke up late.

**B. Now, add suitable words to complete these phrases and clauses and form sentences.**

1. in spring Flowers blossom in spring.
2. so they did not go out to play  
It rained last evening, so they did not go out to play.
3. before she went to bed \_\_\_\_\_
4. if you help me \_\_\_\_\_
5. Monday mornings \_\_\_\_\_
6. a new dress \_\_\_\_\_
7. because the test was difficult \_\_\_\_\_
8. while my Father made dinner \_\_\_\_\_
9. when she lived in Paris \_\_\_\_\_
10. his homework \_\_\_\_\_
11. as soon as you reach home \_\_\_\_\_
12. the tennis tournament \_\_\_\_\_



# Kinds of Sentences According to Function

According to function, sentences can be classified into four kinds.

## 1. Declarative sentences

These sentences state some facts. They are also called **assertive sentences**. We put a **full stop** at the end of a declarative sentence. For example,

- I study in Class VII.
- Ravi likes to play cricket.
- Mahima is cleaning her car.

Declarative sentences are of two kinds—**affirmative** or **positive**, and **negative**. For example,

- I can play the guitar. (positive)
- I cannot play the guitar. (negative)

## 2. Interrogative sentences

These sentences ask questions. We put a **question mark** at the end of an interrogative sentence. For example,

- When will you come to Delhi?
- Did you like the film?

Interrogative sentences are of four kinds.

a. **Yes/no questions** are questions that need either a yes or a no answer.

For example,

- Are you American?  
No, I am not.
- Do you like ice cream?  
Yes, I do.



b. **Wh questions** are questions that are asked using question words such as **who**, **whom**, **what**, **when**, **where**, **why**, **how**, **which** or **whose**. For example,

- What is your name?
- Where do you live?

c. **Tag questions** are interrogative fragments that are added at the end of a declarative or an imperative sentence to form questions. For example,

- Your pet loves you, doesn't it?
- They haven't slept off, have they?

d. **Choice questions** are questions that provide a choice. The answer to the choice question is in the question itself. For example,

- Would you like to go to Singapore or Bali?

### Note

Usually, an affirmative statement has a negative tag and a negative statement has an affirmative tag.

### 3. Imperative sentences

These sentences express a request, a command or a piece of advice.  
For example,

- Obey your parents and your teachers.
- Please make some coffee for me.
- You may take the metro upto Rajiv Chowk.

### 4. Exclamatory sentences

These sentences express sudden emotions and feelings. We put an **exclamation mark** at the end of exclamatory sentences. For example,

- What a lovely idea it is!
- How beautiful the parrot is!

### C. Identify these sentences and write their kind.

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Is it going to snow tomorrow?                                       | <u>yes/no question</u> |
| 2. New leaves sprout on trees.   | _____                  |
| 3. Please help me.   | _____                  |
| 4. When will the programme begin?                                      | _____                  |
| 5. How wonderfully he sings!   | _____                  |
| 6. I won't follow your advice.   | _____                  |
| 7. How many students graduated from this university last year?         | _____                  |
| 8. What punishment should be given to the thieves?                     | _____                  |
| 9. Hurrah! We have won the match.                                      | _____                  |
| 10. Turn right at the corner of the temple and wait there till I come. | _____                  |
| 11. Please note the homework in your diary.                            | _____                  |
| 12. Do you understand Oriya?   | _____                  |
| 13. Which ice cream do you like more—chocolate or vanilla?             | _____                  |
| 14. Open the door.   | _____                  |
| 15. He is playing golf.  | _____                  |



# Kinds of Sentences According to Structure

According to structure, sentences can be classified into three kinds.

## 1. Simple sentences

A simple sentence has only one independent clause. It has a subject and a verb and conveys complete sense. For example,

- I am happy.
- She is learning to swim.
- Father bought a new car.

## 2. Compound sentences

A compound sentence has two independent clauses. The independent clauses are joined by a coordinating conjunction—**for, and, nor, but, or, yet** or **so**. For example,

- I like tea, but she likes coffee.
- She was tired, so she went off to sleep.
- She went to the station and bought tickets for the trip.

### Note

You can remember the seven coordinating conjunctions by remembering the following acronym: **FANBOYS**.

In the acronym, **F** stands for **for**, **A** stands for **and**, **N** stands for **nor**, **B** stands for **but**, **O** stands for **or**, **Y** stands for **yet** and **S** stands for **so**.

### Remember

The part of a sentence that can stand alone and convey complete sense is called the **main** or the **independent** clause. For example,

- She came to my house and went off to sleep.

In this sentence both the parts (She came to my house + (She) went off to sleep) are independent clauses because they both these parts convey complete sense and are independent of each other. The part of a sentence that is dependent on the other part is called the **subordinate** or **dependent** clause. For example,

- Marina had left before I could reach Jisha's house.

In this sentence, **Marina had left** can stand independently and be a sentence on its own. But **I could reach Jisha's house** cannot stand alone as a complete sentence on its own.

You will learn more about phrases and clauses in Chapter 14.

## 3. Complex sentences

A complex sentence has an independent clause and a dependent clause. The two clauses are joined by a subordinating conjunction such as **because, that, when, until, though, although** or **while**. For example,

- She went out for a walk although it was raining.

- Mary left early because she had to catch a flight early in the morning.
- The train had left before I reached the station.

**D. Identify the kinds of sentences as simple (S), compound (C) or complex (Co).**

1. The baby cried for food.
2. Being tired, he went to bed.
3. If you study well, you will pass.
4. The teacher entered the class.
5. I saw a girl who had blue eyes.
6. The earth moves around the sun.
7. He works hard, so he will succeed.
8. The food was hot, so I could not eat.
9. When I was young, we had a lot of pets.
10. While Tom reads novels, Jack reads comics.
11. As it rained heavily, the school was closed.
12. It rained heavily, so the schools were closed.
13. Everyone enjoyed the film, however I did not.
14. Although it rained a lot, they enjoyed themselves.
15. Jigyasa is a teacher and her brother is an engineer.
16. The cat jumped onto the couch and slept on a cushion.
17. My friend has invited me to a party but I don't want to go to it.
18. Rajni likes reading novels but Priyansh loves reading comics.
19. Although my friend invited me to the party, I do not want to go.
20. She likes to sleep in but she can get up early if she has work.
21. Although I like to go camping, I haven't had the time to go anywhere lately.





## Warm-up



Use each of these words as a noun and a verb. You may use the dictionary, if required.

1. house: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. rat: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. beam: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. eye: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. fish: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. judge: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. note: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. sail: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. hand: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# Kinds of Nouns

There are four kinds of nouns.

1. **Proper noun** is the name of a particular person, place, animal or thing. For example, Ravi, New York, Snowy, Mac O'Donell burger.
2. **Common noun** is the name of any person, place, animal or thing in general. For example, boy, place, animal, burger.
3. **Collective noun** is the name of a collection of people, animals or things. For example, bunch, ream, gang, pride.
4. **Abstract noun** is the name of an idea or a feeling. For example, enthusiasm, determination, sympathy, wisdom.

## A. Use the collective nouns given in the box to complete these sentences.

band	troupe	fleet	flock	bouquet
team	gang	swarm	colony	crowd

1. The Indian cricket \_\_\_\_\_ won the World Cup in the year 2011.
2. Antonio's \_\_\_\_\_ of ships were said to be all lost at sea.
3. The boys were attacked by a \_\_\_\_\_ of bees.
4. A large \_\_\_\_\_ gathered in the street.
5. We greeted our teacher with a \_\_\_\_\_ of roses.
6. The performers were part of a \_\_\_\_\_ that had come from Russia.
7. A large \_\_\_\_\_ of sheep caused a traffic jam on the highway.
8. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ of ants under the rotting tree.
9. The police caught a \_\_\_\_\_ of robbers last night.
10. A \_\_\_\_\_ of musicians performed at the fête.

## B. Form abstract nouns using appropriate suffixes.

- |         |              |            |
|---------|--------------|------------|
| 1. able | 2. difficult | 3. explore |
| _____   | _____        | _____      |
| 4. warm | 5. hero      | 6. false   |
| _____   | _____        | _____      |



- |               |            |                |
|---------------|------------|----------------|
| 7. agent      | 8. brave   | 9. young       |
| _____         | _____      | _____          |
| 10. high      | 11. vain   | 12. consistent |
| _____         | _____      | _____          |
| 13. grow      | 14. invite | 15. judge      |
| _____         | _____      | _____          |
| 16. neighbour | 17. member | 18. king       |
| _____         | _____      | _____          |

**C. Write two proper nouns for each common noun.**

Common noun	Proper nouns
1. car	
2. restaurant	
3. friend	
4. river	
5. ocean	
6. sea	
7. dog	
8. film	
9. novel	
10. school	
11. store	
12. teacher	

## Number

When we talk of one person, animal or thing, we say that it is in the **singular form**. For example, dog, piano, ox, magazine, country, calf. When we talk of more than one person, animal or thing, we say that it is in the **plural form**. For example, dogs, pianos, oxen, magazines, countries, calves.

## Countable nouns

Most nouns are countable. We can count them. For example, ten marbles, three pencils.

Countable nouns form their plural in different ways. Let us learn about them.

- ◆ Many nouns form their plural by adding **s**. For example,

book—books

window—windows

comb—combs

- ◆ Nouns which end in **s**, **ss**, **sh**, **ch**, **z** or **x**, form their plural by adding **es**. For example,

bus—buses

mass—masses

dish—dishes

church—churches

blitz—blitzes

fox—foxes

- ◆ Nouns which end in **o**, form their plural by adding **es**. For example,

mango—mangoes

potato—potatoes

tomato—tomatoes

- ◆ Some nouns which end in **o**, form their plural by adding **s**. For example,

photo—photos

piano—pianos

zoo—zoos

- ◆ Some nouns that end in **f** or **fe**, form their plural by changing the **f** or **fe** to **v** and adding **es**. For example,

thief—thieves

wife—wives

life—lives

- ◆ Some nouns which end in **f** or **fe**, form their plural by adding **s**. For example,

roof—roofs

chief—chiefs

belief—beliefs

- ◆ Some nouns which end in a **consonant** followed by **y**, form their plural by changing the **y** to **i** and adding **es**. For example,

city—cities

army—armies

lorry—lorries

- ◆ Nouns which end in a **vowel** followed by **y**, form their plural by adding **s**. For example,

day—days

donkey—donkeys

boy—boys

- ◆ Some nouns do not follow any rules for forming their plural. For example,

child—children

man—men

tooth—teeth

mouse—mice

goose—geese

person—people

ox—oxen

woman—women

louse—lice



- ◆ Some nouns remain the same in its singular and plural forms. For example,

sheep

deer

offspring

aircraft

salmon

software

- ◆ Some nouns exist only in the plural form. For example,

series

species

oats

scissors

tongs

tweezers

- ◆ In compound nouns, the plural ending is added to the main noun. For example,

attorney general—  
attorneys general

daughter-in-law—  
daughters-in-law

passer-by—passers-by

she-wolf—she-wolves

maid-of-honour—  
maids-of-honour

spoonful—  
spoonfuls

- ◆ Words borrowed from Latin that end in **us**, form their plural by changing **us** to **i**. For example,

alumnus—alumni

fungus—fungi

syllabus—syllabi

- ◆ Words borrowed from Latin that end in **um**, form their plural by changing **um** to **a**. For example,

curriculum—curricula

stratum—strata

erratum—errata

- ◆ Words borrowed from Latin that end in **a**, form their plural by adding **e**. For example,

antenna—antennae

vertebra—vertebrae

formula—formulae

- ◆ Words borrowed from Latin that end in **on**, form their plural by changing **on** to **a**. For example,

criterion—criteria

phenomenon—phenomena

- ◆ Words borrowed from Latin that end in **ex**, form their plural by changing **ex** to **ic** and adding **es**. For example,

vertex—vertices

vortex—vortices

- ◆ Words borrowed from French that end in **eau**, form their plural by adding **x**. For example,

bureau—bureaux

tableau—tableaux

- ◆ Nouns ending in **is** become plural by changing **is** to **es**. For example,

oasis—oases

axis—axes

crisis—crises

**D. Correct the errors in the use of nouns or verbs in these sentences.**

1. The news are bad.
2. Diabetes are incurable.
3. Your luggages are so heavy.
4. Mother bought two loafs of bread.
5. Put the two bookscase in the study.
6. There are lots of mouses in the attic.
7. I ate two stuffed tomatoe for lunch.
8. Add two spoonsful of vanilla essence to the batter.
9. Mathematics are my favourite subject.
10. How many deers are left in Alipore Zoo?
11. I wrote many essayes for my history class.
12. The engineer installed five softwares in the laptop.
13. The passer-bys helped the victim get to the hospital.
14. There are thirty-two permanent tooths in an adult human.



**Uncountable nouns**

Some nouns are uncountable. We cannot count them.

For example, water, milk, butter, iron, excitement, research, traffic, wisdom.

**E. Identify whether the highlighted nouns in these sentences are countable (C) or uncountable (U).**

1. I do not like **milk**.
2. I need some **advice** from you.
3. Can you give me some **water**?
4. Can I have some **juice**, please?
5. Keep these **bottles** in the fridge.
6. Mix the **butter** and the **flour** well.
7. I have to fix this **vase**. Get me some **glue**.

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8. Let us buy new **furniture** for the drawing room.
9. Everyone is concerned about **pollution** in our **cities**.
10. Complete your **homework** before you go off to sleep.
11. The **policeman** fined the man for jumping the red **light**.
12. Could you please give me some **information** about the Smiths?



## Gender

There are four kinds of gender-nouns.

1. **Masculine gender:** Men, boys and male animals are of the masculine gender. For example, king, man, lion, gander.
2. **Feminine gender:** Women, girls and female animals are of the feminine gender. For example, queen, woman, lioness, goose.
3. **Common gender:** Nouns that can stand for males or females are of the common gender. For example, baby, student, friend, guest.
4. **Neuter gender:** Nouns that refer to lifeless objects are in the neuter gender. For example, book, chair, table, bag.

This list of some masculine and feminine gender-nouns will help you.

Masculine	Feminine
• uncle	aunt
• nephew	niece
• sir	madam
• grandfather	grandmother
• bridegroom	bride
• lad	lass
• lord	lady
• landlord	landlady
• bachelor	maid/spinster

Masculine	Feminine
• stepson	stepdaughter
• god	goddess
• master	mistress
• father-in-law	mother-in-law
• manservant	maidservant
• king	queen
• fiancé	fiancée
• widower	widow
• monk	nun

Here is a list comprising some masculine and feminine nouns for male and female animals and birds. There is one general word for the animal and special word for male and female.

Animal	Masculine	Feminine
fowl	rooster	hen
goose	gander	goose
duck	drake	duck
fox	fox	vixen
lion	lion	lioness
horse	stallion	mare
donkey	jack	jenny
goat	billy	nanny
cat	tom cat	tabby cat

F. Rewrite these sentences by writing the opposite gender-noun for the highlighted words. Make other necessary changes.

1. This **tigress** is very ferocious.
2. The **princess** had never seen a **witch** before.
3. The **girl** told her story to the **spinster** next door.
4. My **father** has bought a small **tabby cat** for me.
5. The **billy goat** entered the garden and made a mess.
6. The **headmaster** called all the **boys** to his office.
7. This **stallion** is very famous—**he** has won many races.
8. My **father** is very strict; **he** does not allow me to stay up late.
9. The **king** crowned the **prince** as the next **heir** to the throne.
10. **Mrs Khanna** is a **widow**, her **husband** died in an accident.



# Case

The case of a noun can be classified into five kinds—nominative, objective, possessive, vocative and dative. Let us learn about them.

- Nominative:** When a noun or a pronoun is used as the subject of the verb, it is said to be in the nominative, or **subjective case**. For example,
  - **Rajat** bought a bike.
  - **Mother** made sandwiches.
- Objective:** When a noun or a pronoun is used as the direct object of the verb, it is said to be in the objective, or **accusative case**. For example,
  - We bought some **oranges**.
  - John sowed the **seeds**.
- Possessive:** When a noun or a pronoun shows ownership or possession, it is said to be in the possessive, or **genitive case**. For example,
  - This is **Meera's desk**.
  - These are the **children's toys**.
- Vocative:** When the noun is the name of the person being spoken to or addressed, it is said to be in the **vocative case**. For example,
  - **Praveen**, come here.
  - **Lathika**, get off the lawn.
- Dative:** When a noun or a pronoun is used as the indirect object of the verb, it is said to be in the **dative case**. For example,
  - The postman brought a letter for **him**.
  - We bought a gift for **Priyansh**.

**G. Mark the highlighted words as nominative (N), objective (O), possessive (P), vocative (V) or dative (D).**

- |                                     |                          |   |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1. <b>Anne</b> went to the shop.    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. <b>Deepti</b> ate the cupcakes.        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This is <b>Richa's</b> bag.      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. <b>Radha's</b> backpack is red.        | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. We gave him a <b>gift</b> .      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. <b>Paul</b> , wear your shoes.         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Give <b>her</b> the gift.        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. <b>Dileep</b> , please come here.      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Jeevan wrote a <b>letter</b> .   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. This is my <b>friend's</b> book.      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. We bought a new <b>car</b> .    | <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. He broke the <b>windowpane</b> .      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. She is reading a <b>book</b> .  | <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. I gave this <b>pen</b> to my brother. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. It is burying its <b>bone</b> . | <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Did you eat <b>Anita's</b> ice cream? | <input type="checkbox"/> |



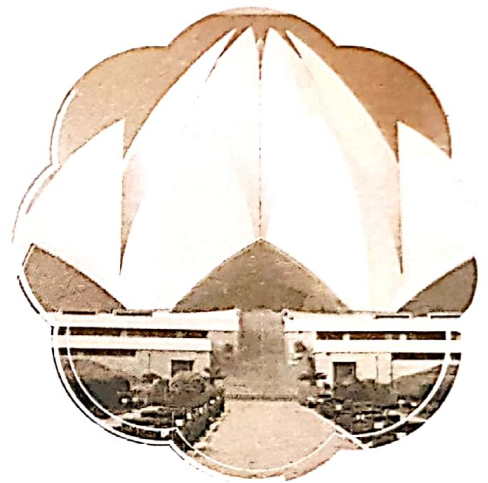


## Warm-up



Correct the errors in the use of articles. Some may have two errors.

1. She is best singer of all.
2. The man was diagnosed with the dengue.
3. Aeroplane is fastest means of transport.
4. I live in the New Delhi.
5. The gold is a precious metal.
6. The iron is an useful metal.
7. The London is a big city.
8. Last night, we went to the good restaurant.
9. There is the park near my school.
10. The patient is making a rapid progress.
11. We are in a trouble.
12. Do you know the English?
13. I caught the train to London. A train was late.
14. He travelled around world.
15. She lives in the small apartment in a suburbs.
16. A report he submitted was very exhaustive.



The words **a**, **an** and **the** are called **articles**. **A** and **an** are called the **indefinite articles** because they do not refer to any specific person or thing. The article **the** is called the **definite article** because it refers to a specific person or thing.

# Indefinite Articles

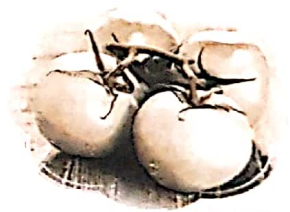
The article **a/an** is used

1. before a singular countable noun when it refers to no particular person or thing. For example,
  - I have **a** car.
  - The computer is **a** machine.
  - She is **an** advocate.
2. before a singular noun which represents its whole class or species. For example,
  - **A** student should be disciplined.
  - **A** pet should be taken care of.
3. to mean **one**. For example,
  - The car ran at the speed of sixty kilometres **an** hour.
  - I own **a** cat and three dogs.
4. to indicate membership of a group. For example,
  - He is **a** teacher.
  - Brian is **a** Goan.
  - Richard is **a** practising Buddhist.
5. before phrases of time and measurements. For example,
  - I go on holiday twice **a** week.
  - Tomatoes are Rs 100 **a** kilo.
  - Our car can go at the speed of 220 kilometres **an** hour.

## Note

The article **a** is used before a noun that starts with a consonant sound. The article **an** is used before a noun that starts with a vowel sound. For example,

- **a** European country
- **an** unusual problem
- **an** MBA student
- **a** usual day
- **an** honourable job



# Definite Article

The definite article is used

1. before a noun that is one of its kind. For example,
  - **The** Pope might visit India.
  - **The** moon is very bright tonight.
2. before a noun when we have already mentioned it. For example,
  - A boy fell from a mango tree. **The** boy was taken to a nearby hospital.
3. before a noun which is made definite by using a qualifying phrase or clause. For example,
  - **The** boy in the corner is my brother.
  - **The** child in red is very cute.
  - This is **the** place where we first met.

4. before a noun which becomes definite because both the speaker and the listener are familiar with it. For example,
  - They are playing in **the** lawn.
  - Mother is in **the** kitchen.
5. before ordinals (first, second, third, etc.) and superlatives. Also, before **same** and **only**. For example,
  - I accepted **the** first offer.
  - I read **the** same book that you read.
6. to represent a whole class of animals or things. For example,
  - **The** cow gives us milk.
  - **The** camel rarely drinks water.
7. before an adjective of quality to represent a category of people. For example,
  - **The** brave are admired.
  - **The** rich should help **the** poor.
8. before the names of seas, rivers, oceans, groups of islands, deserts, ranges of mountains, gulfs and bays, poles, etc. For example,
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the</b> Red Sea</li> <li>• <b>the</b> Ganga River</li> <li>• <b>the</b> Pacific Ocean</li> <li>• <b>the</b> Andaman and Nicobar Islands</li> <li>• <b>the</b> Sahara Desert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>the</b> Himalayas</li> <li>• <b>the</b> Bay of Bengal</li> <li>• <b>the</b> Gulf of Mexico</li> <li>• <b>the</b> North Pole</li> </ul>
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9. before names of countries that have the words **united** or **republic** in them or have plural names. For example,
  - **the** United States of America
  - **the** Philippines, **the** Netherlands
  - **the** Republic of Seychelles
10. before the names of a few important books, magazines and newspapers. For example,
  - **the** Bible
  - **the** *Mail Today*
  - **the** Vedas
  - **the** Quran
  - **the** *Hindustan Times*
11. before musical instruments. For example,
  - He plays **the** tabla.
  - Diti plays **the** flute beautifully.

### Note

'Man' is an exception to this rule. For example,

- Man is mortal.



12. before a proper noun if it represents a particular class of people or if it is defined by some defining clause or phrase. For example,
- Kalidasa is **the** Shakespeare of India.
  - Arjun is **the** Tendulkar of our local cricket team.

## Repetition of the Article

Repetition of an article changes the meaning of a sentence. For example,

- I have **a red and white shirt**. (a shirt with two colours—red and white)
- I have **a red and a white shirt**. (two shirts, one—red, the other—white)

## Omission of the Article

No article is used

1. before an uncountable noun.

For example,

- Milk is good for health.
- Iron is a useful metal.
- Grass is green.

2. before plural countable nouns when they do not refer to any particular people or things. For example,

- Men should respect women.
- Roads should be safe even for pedestrians.

3. before proper nouns such as names of people, countries, continents, cities, lakes, hills and mountains. For example,

- Mohan is my brother.
- We live in India.
- Nainital has a better climate than Delhi.
- Agra is known for the Taj Mahal.
- Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world.

4. before the names of meals if they refer to the occasion, not food. For example,

- I take breakfast at 8 o'clock.
- Lunch is at 1:00 p.m.

5. before the names of certain buildings such as school, court, prison, hospital, church if they are visited or used for their primary purpose. For example,

- We go to school every day.
- She will appear in court tomorrow.

### Remember

**The** can be used before uncountable nouns when they refer to something specific. For example,

- **The** milk sold in this shop is organic.
- **The** grass in my lawn is very soft.

### Note

However, if the purpose is different from the primary purpose, we use articles. For example,

- I have come to **the** hospital to meet my friend.
- We catch the bus from **the** church.



- He went to prison.
  - I went to bed.
  - She is in hospital.
  - We spend two hours in church every Sunday.
6. before the names of relations. For example,
- Mother is cooking food.
  - Uncle is waiting.
7. before words that denote a unique post or position. For example,
- He is Principal of my school.
  - They appointed me Chairman of the committee.
8. before names of languages. For example,
- They speak Punjabi at home.
  - Can you speak French?
9. before certain phrases made up of a preposition and a noun. For example,
- |               |               |             |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| • at home     | • at noon     | • by air    |
| • at night    | • at sunset   | • by road   |
| • at sunrise  | • at sight    | • by land   |
| • at daybreak | • on demand   | • by train  |
| • at dawn     | • at interest | • by bus    |
| • at dark     | • on earth    | • by flight |
| • in hand     | • by water    | • on foot   |
| • in debt     | • by sea      | • on deck   |
10. before certain phrases consisting of a transitive verb and its object.  
For example,
- |                  |                  |                   |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| • to send word   | • to cast anchor | • to leave home   |
| • to give word   | • to give ear    | • to go home      |
| • to keep word   | • to set sail    | • to take offence |
| • to catch fire  | • to lose heart  |                   |
| • to take breath | • to set foot    |                   |

**A. Fill in each blank with a suitable article.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ River Thames flows across England.
2. The house is on \_\_\_\_\_ very crowded road.
3. We went for a walk in \_\_\_\_\_ park.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ trial was \_\_\_\_\_ parody of justice.



5. \_\_\_\_\_ worst thing is to have to wait unnecessarily.
6. When were \_\_\_\_\_ last Olympic Games held?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ next step is to call \_\_\_\_\_ press conference.
8. He doesn't take \_\_\_\_\_ interest in sports.
9. You are \_\_\_\_\_ good player.
10. Use \_\_\_\_\_ ladder to get \_\_\_\_\_ books from \_\_\_\_\_ top shelf.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ guard must be posted outside the house.
12. You can see \_\_\_\_\_ wide variety of birds here.
13. He retired from \_\_\_\_\_ job last year.
14. She will go down in history as \_\_\_\_\_ great poet.
15. I gave \_\_\_\_\_ children \_\_\_\_\_ ice cream each.
16. Now, you should try \_\_\_\_\_ fresh approach.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ flower has \_\_\_\_\_ very sweet smell.
18. Why do you have such \_\_\_\_\_ big smile on your face?
19. \_\_\_\_\_ car smashed into \_\_\_\_\_ tree. \_\_\_\_\_ car is badly damaged.
20. They shop around for \_\_\_\_\_ best deal.
21. He shot \_\_\_\_\_ angry glance at me.
22. \_\_\_\_\_ government aims at giving quality education.
23. They have lived in \_\_\_\_\_ same house for ten years.
24. We are going to play \_\_\_\_\_ important match.
25. There is \_\_\_\_\_ letter for you.

**B. Insert articles, where necessary.**

1. Here is list of participants.
2. Who made coffee?
3. I am short of cash now.
4. Today is cloudless day.
5. She breathed sigh of relief.



6. Chair is made of plastic.
7. Rose is beautiful flower.
8. You have done excellent job.
9. She had dog with smooth coat.
10. Could you shut door, please?
11. They are staying at hotel.
12. Cook the vegetables on low heat.
13. Captain held trophy in air.
14. Interview lasted half hour.
15. He is highest ranked player in country.
16. I have to buy new pair of shoes.
17. We'll have to get to root of problem.
18. Giving wrong information is offence.
19. I work for company that makes computers.
20. Be quiet or you'll wake whole house.
21. This is first time she has been late for work.
22. Dark clouds in sky gave hint that it was going to rain.
23. Only way to win the match is to practise hard.
24. It was fifth day running that fog had continued.
25. What made you decide on career as teacher?

**C. Insert articles where necessary. Put a X where you don't need one.**

1. Seema and I met up \_\_\_\_\_ last month.
2. Shelly is going to \_\_\_\_\_ bazaar to get \_\_\_\_\_ new salwar kameez for herself.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Pulses are a great source of protein.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ honesty is \_\_\_\_\_ best policy.
5. Meera and Suhita are \_\_\_\_\_ best of friends.



6. I survived on \_\_\_\_\_ books and \_\_\_\_\_ music during my years at the hostel.
7. I dropped the vase by \_\_\_\_\_ mistake.
8. I was in \_\_\_\_\_ college when Mum telephoned.
9. Father and Mother are going to \_\_\_\_\_ theatre house to watch \_\_\_\_\_ play.
10. Dad is making \_\_\_\_\_ dinner for us. It will be ready in a while.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ year 2019 was a good year for me.
12. My brother was born in \_\_\_\_\_ 2014.

**D. Insert articles where necessary.**

Once upon time, rich merchant was robbed in king Akbar's kingdom. Grief-stricken merchant went to court and asked for help. Akbar asked Birbal to help merchant find robber. Merchant told Birbal that he suspected one of his servants. On getting hint from merchant, Birbal summoned all servants and told them to stand in straight line. When asked about robbery, everyone denied doing it, as expected. Birbal then handed over one stick of same length, to each one of them. While dispersing, Birbal said, 'By tomorrow, robber's stick will increase by two inches'. Next day when Birbal summoned everyone and did inspection of their sticks, one servant's stick was shorter by two inches. On being asked by merchant about mystery of finding real thief, Birbal said, 'It was simple—thief had cut his stick by two inches, fearing that it would increase in size'.