

Articles With Abstract Nouns

B1 - B2

Module 5

Here's What We
Will Be Learning
in this
Presentation:



Summary

- ❑ Articles.
- ❑ Abstract Nouns.
- ❑ How to use Articles with Abstract Nouns.
- ❑ Exercises.

Articles

An article is a word that comes before a noun.



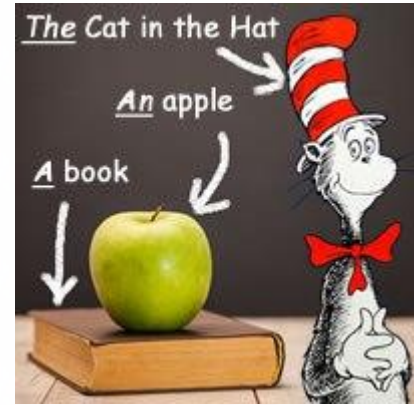
the boy



a bee



an apple



A or An?



- Use "a" when the next word begins with a consonant sound.

Examples: a flower
 a tasty apple

- Use "an" when the next word begins with a vowel sound.

Examples: an unusual flower
 an apple

"The" is used to refer to specific or particular nouns.

The man *whom you met yesterday* is my uncle.

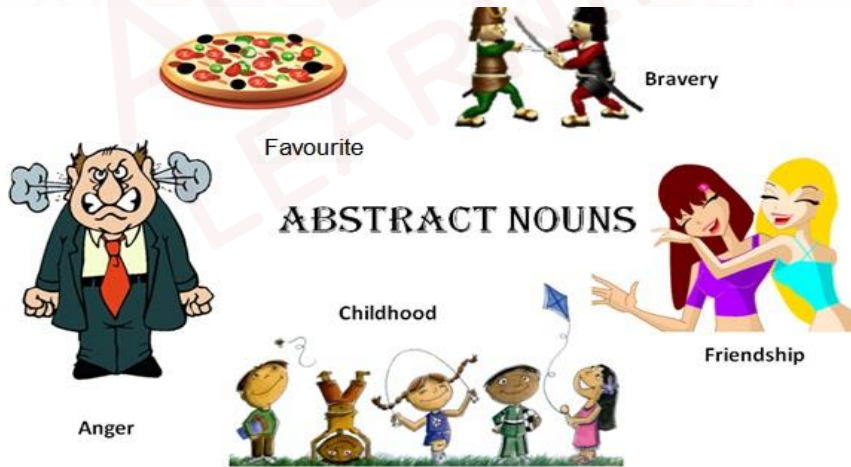
The lady *you saw at the theatre* is my wife.

The bungalow *you like* is already sold.

Abstract Nouns

A noun denoting an idea, quality, or state rather than a concrete object, is called an Abstract noun.

- Examples of abstract nouns:



How to use Articles with Abstract Nouns

Abstract nouns can be both - countable and uncountable.

The rules of articles with countable abstract nouns such as **idea, thought, method, dream, invitation**, etc. are the same as those of the use of articles before concrete countable nouns.

For example:

- I ate **an apple**. (Here, apple is a countable concrete noun.)



- I have **an idea** for a new book. (Here, idea is a countable abstract noun.)

More examples of using articles with abstract countable nouns:

- She has **a thought** about the project.
- I received **an invitation** to Kayla's birthday party?



- I had **a dream** last night.



- We followed **the method** of statistics while generating reports.



- Uncountable abstract nouns like **love, hatred, education, importance, knowledge, power, peace, possibility**, etc. are used without any article in their most general meaning.

For example:

- It is difficult to find **happiness**.



- **Confidence** is needed to sing in public.



Here, happiness and confidence are abstract nouns. We are talking about happiness in general. Hence, we don't use any article.

- We need to use the definite article **'the'** with uncountable abstract nouns when we refer to a particular time.

For example:

- I can't express **the happiness** that I felt when my son was born.

In this case, we are talking about a specific moment, a particular time when there was happiness. Therefore, **'the'** is used before happiness.

- We also use 'the' with uncountable abstract nouns when we are talking about a specific example of that noun. If there is a relative clause following an abstract noun, we use **'the'**.

For example:

- He had **the confidence** to sing in public.



Exercise 1

1) Frame sentences using the following abstract nouns:

a. Happiness

b. Love

c. Fear

d. Bravery

e. Honesty

3) Fill in the blanks with the correct articles:

a. ___ duck is ___ bird.

b. ___ sun is very far from ___ earth.

c. I want ___ ice-cream.

d. Give me ___ pencil.

e. ___ dress is torn.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct article:

1. I have ___ idea! Let's go bowling.
1. She had ___ dream about aliens.
1. I have ___ experience of graphics.
1. The company has ___ requirement of engineers.
1. My sister has ___ fear of height.

Exercise 3

Say whether the articles used are appropriate or not. If not, correct them:

- 1) I respected **the honesty** my brother showed.
- 2) **Crime** is up this year.
- 3) Babies have a lot of **the curiosity**.
- 4) **The beauty** is useless, character is the best.
- 5) **Practice** makes perfect.

6) She had **the ability** to win the competition.

7) **The justice** delayed is justice denied.

8) **Man** fell off the bike.

9) **A apple a day** keeps the doctor away.

10) He bought **the ten** chocolates for himself.