



Практическая грамматика
для специальности переподготовки
«Иностранный язык (английский)»

The Indefinite Article

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Indefinite articles a & an

- **A** is used before nouns which begin with **Consonants**
 - **A book, a girl, a sweet**
- Also **A** is used before U and EU
 - **A university, a European city**
- **AN** is used before nouns which begin with **vowels**
 - **An apple, an interesting film**
- **AN** is used before H when the sound is silent
 - **An hour**

We do **not** use
an indefinite article with plural nouns

*She was wearing **blue shoes**.* (plural noun)

A & AN are used

- when we mention something **for the first time**

I bought **a** CD player and **a** TV yesterday.

- with countable nouns in the singular to show that the noun belongs to a certain class

Have you got a car? - Never.

- in the meaning of "one".

Wait a minute!

- with numerals: also with: a dozen, a hundred, a thousand, a million...

1/3= a third, 1.5 hours=one and a half hours

A & AN are used

- with prices, frequency and speeds: a week, an hour, a mile

I go to school five days a week

You should drink about 2 litres of water a day

You're driving at 90 miles an hour

- with professions

I'm a hairdresser.

But: He was **appointed /elected/chosen** _director

A & AN are used

- **with:** There is a ... / Is there a ... ? There was a ... / Was there a ...
There is a shop. / Is there a bank near here?
- **after the words:** *such, rather, quite*. What. . . ! (exclamations)

Ann is such a pretty girl.

What a strange person!

- **to show that the person or thing is one of a group:**

She is a pupil at London Road School.

A & AN are used

- before Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss when we refer to an unknown person

A Mrs Jones called you this morning.

- before descriptive adjectives in a sentence

My neighbour is **an elderly** lady.

A & AN are used

- with uncountable objects in the meaning of "portion"

Could you bring me a coffee? - Will you bring me a cup of coffee?

- with a noun modified by the adjective in the positive degree

I've read an interesting book.

- a/an + ordinal numeral has the meaning "ещё один".

She gave me a second cup of coffee.

A & AN are used in some expressions

to have a smoke
to have an idea
to have a rest
to have a wash
to have a shower
to have a cold
to have a good
time/rest
to tell a lie
to take a shower
to go for a walk/ride

to give a call
to give a hand
to catch (a) cold

to a certain
degree
to a certain
extent

a lot of
as a result
as a matter of fact
as a rule
at a glance
at a gulp

what a shame
it's a pleasure
it's a pity
a knife and fork
for a while

in a week
in a hurry
in a mess
in a rush
in a while
in a whisper
in a sense
in a loud/low voice

Put in the indefinite article where necessary

1. I get up at quarter to seven and go for walk. Then I have snack and give my children lift to school.
2. George plays tennis several times week. He spends lot of time there.
3. We've got nice idea. Let's buy new car.
4. I have mother, father and elder sister. My sister is student. She wants to be musician.
5. Puppy is baby dog.
6. Don't be in hurry. It is quite difficult task.
7. Ted was such nasty boy. He always spoke in loud and nervous voice.
8. I'd like cup of black coffee.
9. There is bottle of milk in the fridge.
10. This is carpet. It is soft carpet.

KEYS

- a quarter, a walk, a snack, a lift
- a week, a lot of
- a nice idea, a new car
- a mother, a father, an elder sister, a student, a musician
- a puppy, a baby dog
- in a hurry, quite a difficult task
- such a nasty boy, in a loud and nervous voice
- a cup
- a bottle
- a carpet, a soft carpet

Speaking. Work in pairs

The one student says a sentence using article «a». The other asks a question «Where is the...?»

There is a word on a page. Where is the page?

The page is in a book. Where is the book?

There is a worm in an apple...There is a flea on a dog...There is a fish in a pond...There is a bee on a flower....