

Articles: Three little words

Pam Williams Oct 29, 2011

Articles: A ,An, The

- “An” is used before a word that starts with a vowel sound for smoother pronunciation.
- Ex: “An apple” is easier to say than “A apple”
- “A” is used before words that start with a consonant sound
- Ex: “A telephone” is easier than “An telephone”
- Try the following exercise:

- _____ apple
- _____ banana
- _____ office
- _____ idea
- _____ healthy person
- _____ island
- _____ university... _____ educational institution

English has exceptions!

- When the word starts with a vowel sound it *usually* has a silent consonant we use “An”
- *Ex: An honest person.*
- *Note the “h” is silent.*
- *Try saying the following:*
- *an honor, an heir, an honest person, an hour*

Using: The

- We use “the” when we want to point something out or be specific. Most of the time “the” can be used before words that start with vowel or consonant sounds
- Ex: I want the big black bear.
- Ex: I want the apple, the red one, please.

- Try the following exercise using *the*:
- He wants to hold _____ new baby.
- You have _____ keys to _____ blue car.
- I want _____ Labrador dog.
- We can't find _____ car.
- She wants _____ black hat.
- They bought a house, _____ yellow one.
- It's impossible to find _____ right color tie.

- Try these exercises using: “A”, “An” or “The”
- I’d like to drive _____ new car today.
- Let’s go eat at _____ Italian food restaurant.
- I want _____ big banana split for desert.
- _____ car keys are locked inside _____ car!
- I need to study for _____ exam tomorrow.
- _____ doctor said, “I’m in good health!”
- I can hardly wait for _____ weather to change.
- There is _____ big spider on the wall. Get it!

- It will get easier to identify when and how to use “Three Little Words”
- “A”, “An” and “The”
- The more you read, the more you’ll know.
- You can also listen to English speakers or music lyrics.