

ARTICLES: A, AN, THE

Use “a” or “an” to signify non-specific singular count nouns

“A” is used before nouns that begin with a consonant sound

A figurine

A ewe

A cave

“An” is used before nouns that begin with a vowel sound

An eruption

An FBI agent

An apple

Use “the” for specific nouns, known to the audience

The lakes in Wisconsin

The people who work for Starbucks

The morning announcements

Proper nouns

Omit “the” for

Streets/Squares/Parks

14th Street

Cities/States/Counties

Las Vegas

Non-United/Plural Countries

Canada

Continents

North America

Bays and Lakes

Lake Las Vegas

Mountains and Islands

Mount Charleston

Proper nouns

Use "the" for

United/Pluralized Countries	The United States
Large Regions/Deserts	The Sahara
Peninsulas, Oceans/Seas/Gulfs	The Iberian Peninsula
Canals and Rivers	The Colorado River
Mountain Ranges	The Sierra Madres
Island Chains/Groups of Islands	The Bahamas