DEFINITE AND INDEFINITE ARTICLES

Presenta:

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A/AN – THE

USE

• We use the indefinite article a/an to talk about something in general or for the first time.
• We use the definite article the to talk about something specific i.e. something which we mention for a second time or which is already known. There’s a cat in the living room. The cat is on the sofa.
• We also use the before:
  - names of families: the Greens, the Swansons
  - nationalities: the Americans, the English
  - names of oceans and seas: the Pacific, the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea.
  - names of rivers: the Danube, the Nile
  - names of mountain ranges: the Alps
  - titles: the Queen, the doctor
  - nouns which are unique: the Moon, the Accropolis
  - countries (When they include words such as state, kingdom): the United States of America
  - names of musical instruments: the piano, the drums

• We don’t use the before:
  - proper names: London, Anne, Paul
  - names of countries: Ireland, Australia
  - names of meals: lunch, supper
  - names of sports/games: football, chess
  - titles - a person’s name: Queen Victoria

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