that object we use the definite article **the**.

When we speak of something or someone for the first time we use **a** or **an**, the next time we repeat

 **The** president of the United States is giving a speech tonight.

 **The** car over there is fast.

know.

It's used when the speaker talks about a specific object that both the person speaking and the listener

**The definite article *the*:**

 **an**  athlete

 **an**  elephant.

 **an**  engineer.

The indefinite article **an** is used before a vowel sound:

consonant sound /ju:.niv3:.si.ti/

Although 'university' starts with the vowel 'u', it is not pronounced as such. It is pronounced as a

NOTE:

 **a**  university

 **a**  teacher.

 **a**  pilot

 **a**  dog.

The indefinite article **a** is used before a consonant sound:

 I borrowed **a** pencil from **a** passenger sitting next to me.

 I work in **a** factory in New York.

 I met **a**  friend.

talking about:

The article **a** / **an** is used when we don't specify the things or people we are

**The indefinite article *a* or *an*:**

 The **indefinite** article is **a** / **an**.

 The **definite** article is  **the.**

reference being made by the noun.

Basically, **articles** are either *definite* or *indefinite*. They combine to a noun to indicate the type of

**What is an article?**

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**LECTURE :05**

3. I drank **a** cup of tea.

2. I lent him a book.

1. I'd like **a** piece of cake.

**a/an** can be used only with *countable*  nouns.

It is unusual to use **a/an** for uncountable nouns. You can't say "I'd like a milk"

him from the kitchen) or "He drank water." (any water)

2. "He drank **the** water" (some specific water- for example, the water his wife brought

peace).

peace treaty) or "The two countries reached peace after a long disastrous war" (any

1. "The two countries reached **the** peace after a long disastrous war" (some specific

**The** can be used with *uncountable* nouns, or the article can be dropped entirely as mentioned above.

Using English articles with countable and uncountable nouns may be confusing.

**Countable and uncountable nouns**

 She ate bread with butter in the morning.

 Do you like jazz music?

 She likes sweets.

 He writes books.

general.:

2. we do not normally use an article with plurals and uncountable nouns to talk about things in

 They climbed **Mount Everest.**

 They live in **Northern British Columbia**.

 He lives in **Washington** near **Mount Rainier**.

when the country is a collection of states such as "**The** United States".

1. Do not use an article with countries, states, counties or provinces, lakes and mountains except

**No article:**

 I ate in **a** Chinese restaurant. **The** restaurant was very good.

 I live in **a** house. **The** house is quite old and has four bedrooms.