From The Advocacy Center

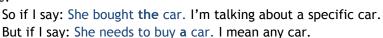


Definite/Indefinite Articles

Quick Tip of the Week

Did you know . . .

The English language has only two articles: The and a/an. The is used when referring to specific or particular nouns and a/an is used for non-specific nouns. That is why the is called the definite article and a/an is called the indefinite article.





Or

My son wants a puppy. This means he wants any puppy, and not a specific one. Maybe he hasn't picked out a breed he likes yet.

But what if I said

There is a brown puppy on the porch. My son wants the puppy. Than not only am I talking about a specific puppy, I'm talking about the one sitting on the porch. (The same one from the previous sentence).

Here are a few other examples:

The egg fell out of her Easter basket.

I'm hungry for an egg salad sandwich.

The game was so exciting. I couldn't stop watching. He wants to play a game tonight.

Snow White bit the apple and was cursed.

She at an apple with her lunch.

Remember also that you would use a when it is followed by a word beginning with a consonant or consonant sound.

a dog a truck a sign a university a towel a paper

And you use an when it is followed by a word beginning with a vowel or vowel sound.

an eagle an honor an owl an imposter an olive an uncle

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