



## Definite and Indefinite Articles

### The, A, An

#### **Example**

I am from Seattle, Washington. Seattle is **a** city in **the** United States. It is near **the** border of Canada in **the** northwest corner of **the** USA. I live in **a** town called Olympia which is on **the** Puget Sound. I live in **a** house in **a** street in **the** countryside. **The** street is called "Bear Street" and **the** house is old - more than 100 years old! I am **an** English teacher at **a** school in **the** center of **the** town. I like books and taking photographs. I usually have lunch at school. I usually go home by car. We have all kinds of food in Olympia. I like Italian food very much. Sometimes, I go to **an** Italian restaurant in Seattle. The restaurant is called "Luigi's". Italian food is great!

#### **Here are the rules for when to use "A, An or The":**

- A: indefinite article (not a specific object, one of a number of the same objects) with consonants

**She has a dog.**

**I work in a factory.**

- An: indefinite article (not a specific object, one of a number of the same objects) with vowels (a,e,i,o,u)

**Can I have an apple?**

**She is an English teacher.**

The: definite article (a specific object that both the person speaking and the listener know)

**The car over there is fast.**

**The teacher is very good, isn't he?**



- The first time you speak of something use "a or an", the next time you repeat that object use "the".

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

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

- **DO NOT** use an article with countries, states, counties or provinces, lakes and mountains except when the country is a collection of states such as "The United States".

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

**They live in northern British Columbia.**

- Use an article with bodies of water, oceans and seas

**My country borders the Pacific Ocean.**

- **DO NOT** use an article when you are speaking about things in general

**I like Russian tea.**

**She likes reading books.**

- **DO NOT** use an article when you are speaking about meals, places, and transport

**He has breakfast at home.**

**I go to university.**

**He comes to work by taxi.**