THE INDEFINITE ARTICLES

*a* vor einem gesprochenen Konsonanten (Mitlaut)

*an* vor einem gesprochenen Vokal (Selbstlaut):

| a gentleman | an apple | an elderly lady |
| a lady | an orange | an old man |
| a book | an animal | an hour |
| a university | an e-mail | an honour |
| a uniform | an extraordinary task | an uncle |

THE DEFINITE ARTICLES

*the* /Ə/ vor einem gesprochenen Konsonanten (Mitlaut)

*the* /iː/ vor einem gesprochenen Vokal (Selbstlaut):

| the /Ə/ | the /iː/ |
| new TV set | orange |
| living room | apple |
| nice poster | old house |
| secretary | animal |

Use the indefinite article *a/an* if you refer to

a) professions or jobs

*She is a bank manager.*

b) religion

*Mary is a Catholic.*

*Molly is a Methodist.*

*Mustafa is a Moslem.*
c) nationality

Bill is an American.
Kent is a Dane.

d) weights and measures (with the meaning per)

These apples are £ 1.25 a kilogram.
He was driving 65 miles an hour when the police stopped him.

Use the definite article the to refer to something specific (definite)
or something that has been mentioned.
I want to buy a bike.
I want to buy the bike I've seen in the shop window.

DON'T use an article

a) when talking about things in general

She listens to classical music.
Life is hard.

b) before names of meals, sports, days, months, festivals and places

Dinner is at seven o'clock.
They usually go shopping in Oxford Street.

c) in certain common expressions

by bus/plane  in town
at home     to church
at/to school on foot

DON'T use indefinite articles before uncountable nouns.

Water boils at 100 degrees.
Is vegetable margarine healthier than butter?
Coffee keeps him awake at night.

BUT: "Three coffees, please." = three cups of coffee, please.