

**** Determiners: how to use and pronounce correctly
indefinite and definite articles ****

A/AN: indefinite article

We use *a* before nouns beginning with a consonant sound (*a* company, *a* politician), a semivowel sound¹ (*a* euro, *a* university, *a* yacht) or an aspirate *h* (*a* hotel).

We use *an* before nouns beginning with a vowel sound (*an* accident, *an* entrepreneur, *an* organization, *an* investment) or a silent *h*² (*an* hour).

THE: definite article

We pronounce /ðə/ before nouns beginning with a consonant sound (*the* company, *the* politician), a semivowel sound³ (*the* euro; *the* United Kingdom, *the* UK; *the* European Union; *the* United States, *the* US; *the* university, *the* yacht) or an aspirate *h* (*the* hotel).

We pronounce /ði/ (/ðɪz/ using the strong form of the definite article before nouns beginning with a vowel sound (*the* accident, *the* entrepreneur, *the* EU, *the* organization, *the* investment) or a silent *h*⁴ (*the* hour).

¹ A **semivowel sound** is a speech sound that sounds like a vowel but functions as a consonant, for example /w/ and /j/ in the English words *wet* and *yet*.

² In English, the only words beginning with a **silent h** are the following: *heir*, *heiress*, *honest*, *honour*, *hour*, as well as their derivatives.

³ See footnote no. 1.

⁴ See footnote no. 2.

★ **A ARTICOLI: THE, A/AN**

ARTICOLO DETERMINATIVO (definite article) THE	ARTICOLO INDETERMINATIVO (indefinite article) A/AN	
Traduce l'italiano <i>il, lo, la, i, gli, le</i> e si usa con <u>sostantivi maschili, femminili e neutri, singolari e plurali.</u>	Traduce l'italiano <i>un, uno, una, un'</i> e si usa con <u>sostantivi maschili, femminili e neutri, singolari numerabili per indicare uno tra tanti.</u>	
	A	AN
<i>the boy the boys</i> <i>the girl the girls</i> <i>the house the houses</i>	davanti - a <u>consonante</u> <i>a cat</i> - <u>h aspirata</u> <i>a house</i> - al suono / ju / <i>a university</i> <i>a European man</i>	davanti - a <u>vocale</u> <i>an orange</i> - <u>h muta</u> <i>an hour</i>
si pronuncia: / ðe / davanti a consonante e h aspirata / ði / davanti a vocale e h muta		Le parole che iniziano con h muta sono poche: <i>heir, hour, honour, honest</i> e i loro derivati.
Attenzione!!!		
A differenza dell'italiano, si usa l'articolo a/an davanti		
- alle professioni	<i>He's a doctor.</i>	Lui fa il medico.
- a parti del corpo	<i>She's got a long nose.</i>	Lei ha il naso lungo.
- ad alcuni malesseri : <i>a temperature, a cold, a sore throat, a headache</i>	<i>I've got a cold.</i>	Ho il raffreddore.
		Per approfondire l'uso degli articoli vedi FILE 14

(an excerpt from JORDAN Edward and Patrizia FIOCCHI, 2014: *Grammar Files – Green Edition. English Grammar and Vocabulary*, Trinity Whitebridge)