

# Grammar

Raising Skills  
**English Language**  
Online Study Course



# Using definite and indefinite articles

An article is used before a noun to help the reader understand the sentence.

The main articles are **'the'** and **'a' / 'an'**.

Miriam cut **the** cake.

**'the'** is used when we are referring to a particular object.

**'a'** is used when we are talking about a person or thing that we don't want to be specific about.

His father is **a** teacher.

**An** octopus is a sea creature.

We use **'an'** when the next word starts with a vowel.

# Using different tenses

The tense of a verb (action word) tells us when the action happened.

Example: the verb 'to run'

Past	Present	Future
Use this for events or actions that happened before now.	Use this for events or actions that stay the same or are true for a long time.	Use this for events or actions that have not yet happened.
She <b><u>ran</u></b> yesterday.	She <b><u>runs</u></b> every day.	She <b><u>will run</u></b> tomorrow.

Now think about the verb 'to visit'.

I <b><u>visited</u></b> my mother last Saturday.	I usually <b><u>visit</u></b> my mother at the weekend.	Next week I <b><u>will visit</u></b> my mother on Sunday.
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# What is subject–verb agreement?

## Can you spot the errors in this sentence?

I is a hard working individual. In my last job I were promoted to team leader.

I **is** a hard working individual. In my last job I **were** promoted to team leader.

I **am** a hard working individual. In my last job I **was** promoted to team leader.

# Using subject–verb agreement

Subject–verb agreement is making sure you use the correct verb for the number of people taking part in the activity.

Example: the verb ‘to kick’

	Singular		Plural	
Present	I kick	He kicks	They kick	We kick
Past	I kicked	She kicked	They kicked	We kicked

Verbs need to agree with their subject (the person or thing doing the action – e.g. I, he, they, we). Some verbs change depending on their subject. Singular subjects need a singular form of the verb, and plural subjects need a plural form of the verb.

Now think about the verb ‘to live’.

I <b>live</b> with my parents.	He <b>lives</b> with his parents.	They <b>live</b> with their parents.	We <b>live</b> with our parents.
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# Using modal verbs

Modal verbs are verbs that come before another verb and are used to express the possibility or likelihood of something happening. They are also used to express obligation, permission or ability.

Show level of possibility	might / will / shall
Indicate ability	can / could
Give permission	may / can / could
Show obligation	must / ought to / should

I **might** be able to attend the meeting.

I **can** play the piano.

You **may** sit here next to me.

I **ought to** call my grandmother today.

# Review and reflect

Now I knew how to used subject–verb agreement, I is ready to took the test!

Now I **knew** how to **used** subject–verb agreement, I **is** ready to **took** the test!

Now I **know** how to **use** subject–verb agreement, I **am** ready to **take** the test!