

# Grammar

## Booster 1: Using articles

### Key learning

Articles are words that are used before a noun to help the reader understand the sentence. The main articles used in English are 'an', 'a' and 'the'. Remember, a noun is the name of a person, place or thing.

- 'An' is used when the next word starts with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) and is used to refer to a person or object that you don't want to be specific about.
- 'A' is used when the next word starts with a consonant sound and is also used to refer to a person or object that you don't want to be specific about.
- 'The' is used when referring to a particular person or object, or when there is only one of something.

### Worked example:

Select the correct article from the list below to complete the following sentences. The first one has been done for you.

**an      the      a**

- (a) She bought **an** umbrella yesterday.
- (b) He ordered \_\_\_\_\_ cup of coffee and some carrot cake.
- (c) Stacey is \_\_\_\_\_ apprentice plumber.
- (d) I will need \_\_\_\_\_ calculator to do my test.
- (e) Go past \_\_\_\_\_ shop and turn right.
- (f) I need \_\_\_\_\_ electrician to fix my shower.
- (g) Stella went to \_\_\_\_\_ cinema in town on Friday evening.

### Answers:

- (a) He ordered **a** cup of coffee and some carrot cake.  
'a' is used as it is a single coffee.
- (b) Stacey is **an** apprentice plumber.  
'apprentice' begins with a vowel, so the article is 'an'.
- (c) I will need **a** calculator to do my test.  
'a' is used as it is single object.
- (d) Go past **the** shop and turn right.  
'the' is used as it is referring to a specific place (you couldn't use 'a' here because you wouldn't know which shop to turn right at).
- (e) I need **an** electrician to fix my shower.  
'electrician' begins with a vowel, so the article is 'an'.
- (f) Stella went to **the** cinema in town on Friday evening.  
'the' is used as it is referring to specific place (you couldn't use 'a' here because it is referring only to the cinema in town).

## Your turn:

Now write **four** to **six** sentences to invite a friend to go shopping with you. You could include:

- when you want to go shopping
- where to meet
- what time to meet
- what you want to buy
- what else you could do.

Use each of the following words **at least once**: an, the, a.