Desert Island Survival Game



Introduction: Definite, Indefinite and Zero Articles

Articles are words that define a noun as specific or unspecific.

In English, there are three articles:

- **the (definite):**

  Used to refer to a specific item or items known to both the speaker and listener.

- **a/an (indefinite):**

  Used to refer to a non-specific item

- **zero article (no article):**

  Used with plural and uncountable nouns when talking about things in general.

Now watch the video: https://youtu.be/WM2Wlr2I0Dc

Examples from the Script

Let's look at how the articles are used in the script "**Desert Island Survival Game**":

John: "Alright, Sarah, we need to pick ten items to take to **a desert island**."

a desert island (indefinite, non-specific island)

Sarah: "How about **a knife**? It's essential for survival."

a knife (indefinite, non-specific knife)

John: "And we definitely need **some water**. We can't survive without it."

some water (zero article, uncountable noun)

Sarah: "Let's take **a tent** too. We'll need shelter."

a tent (indefinite, non-specific tent)

John: "What about **food**? We should have something to eat."

food (zero article, uncountable noun)

Sarah: "Let's add **a box of matches** as well. We'll need fire for cooking."

a box of matches (indefinite, non-specific box of matches)

John: "**A first aid kit** is also important. Safety first."

a first aid kit (indefinite, non-specific first aid kit)

Sarah: "**A fishing rod** could help us catch food."

a fishing rod (indefinite, non-specific fishing rod)

John: "We should also take **a map of the island**. It could help us navigate."

a map (indefinite, non-specific map), **the island** (definite, now specific island)

Sarah: "How about **a flashlight**? It will be useful at night."

a flashlight (indefinite, non-specific flashlight)

John: "**A book** could help pass the time."

a book (indefinite, non-specific book)

Sarah: "So, our list is: **a knife, water, a tent, food, matches, a first aid kit, a fishing rod, a map, a flashlight**, and **a book**."

Practice

Fill in the blanks with **a**, **an**, **the**, or leave blank (**zero article**) as needed:

1. We need to bring ____ flashlight.
2. She packed ____ box of matches.
3. He wants to take ____ map of ____ island.
4. We must not forget to bring ____ water.
5. They decided to carry ____ first aid kit.

Answers

1. a
2. a
3. a, the
4. (zero article)
5. a