

Ancient Languages First Aid

ARTICLES



SECTION 7. ARTICLES

Articles are adjectives of a special category. They describe nouns. The three articles in English are *the*, *a*, and *an*.

Examples:

the Acropolis

a hoplite warrior

an alabaster vessel

Section 7.1. Definite Articles

'The' is known as the **definite article**. It is called 'definite' because it refers to a particular thing or things.

For example:

The rising of *the* sun is *the* manifestation of Re.

Section 7.2. Indefinite Articles

'A' and 'an' are **indefinite articles**. They are called 'indefinite' because they do not refer to particular things. Also note, however, that 'a' is used in front of a consonant, while 'an' is used in front of vowels.

Examples:

A jackal represents Anubis, due to its association with the necropolis.

As *an* omnipresent object on all archaeological sites, pottery is *an* ideal chronological indicator.