MODIFIERS – ARTICLES
a, an, the

COUNTABLE NOUNS

1. Use *a* or *an* with an unspecified singular count noun. (A singular count noun is one person, place, or thing). Use *an* before a word that begins with a vowel or a vowel sound.

NO: I saw puppy in the park yesterday.
YES: I saw *a* puppy in the park yesterday.

NO: He is an honest man.
YES: He is *an* honest man.

NO: The woman asked for exact count.
YES: The woman asked for *an* exact count.

2. Use *the* with *specific* singular and plural count nouns. (Plural count nouns are 2 or more person, places, or things.)

Specific singular count noun:
NO: Puppy I saw in park was black and white.
YES: *The* puppy I saw in *the* park was black and white.

Specific plural count noun:
NO: Engineers from Clearwater Company designed a new system for water purification.
YES: *The* engineers from Clearwater Company designed a new system for water purification.

3. Do not use *the* with plural count nouns used in the general sense.

General plural count noun:
NO: *The* dogs make good pets.
YES: Dogs make good pets.

NO: *The* astronauts go through training programs to prepare for space flight.

YES: Astronauts go through training programs to prepare for space flight.

NON-COUNTABLE NOUNS

Do not use an article with non-count nouns used in a general sense.

NO: I do not like *the* seafood.

YES: I do not like seafood.

NO: I need a drink of *the* water.

YES: I need a drink of water.

NO: *The* honesty is the best policy.

YES: Honesty is the best policy.