



IBPS CLERK PRE-02

DEFINITE ARTICLE

The definite article is the word *the*. It is used before a noun to specify it as something previously considered.

There are two types of articles:

- **The Definite Article (*the*)**
- **The Indefinite Article (*a* and *an*)**

The articles are classified as adjectives.

The is known as the definite article because it indicates something specific.

In contrast to the definite article is the indefinite article (*a* or *an*), which indicates something unspecific. Of interest, *the* is the most commonly used word in English.

EXAMPLES OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

Here are some sentences which compare the use of definite and indefinite articles:

- *Can we go to **the** park?*
- *(The park is specific. It is known to the speaker and the listener.)*
- *Can we go to **a** park?*
- *(The park is unspecific. The speaker doesn't care which one.)*
- *I have found **a** solution to **the** problem.*
- *(The solution is not yet known by the listener. The problem is known to the speaker and the listener.)*
- *I have found **a** solution to **a** problem.*
- *(This would attract a response like Good for you. What problem? The speaker's use of 'a' tells us that the problem is not known to the listener.)*

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