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Grammar Reference

Articles

1. Indefinite Articles: *a, an*

- Article “**an**” is used with a singular noun beginning with a vowel (*a, e, i, o, u*) or vowel sound.

Example: **an** orange, **an** ant, **an** hour

- Article “**a**” is used with a singular noun beginning with a consonant or consonant sound.

Example: **a** student, **a** shop, **a** phone, **a** university

2. Definite Article (*the*)

- Article “**the**” is used to talk about a noun that has been mentioned before.

Example:

I have **a cat** (*first mentioned*). **The cat** (*second time it is mentioned*) is white. (*In the 2nd sentence, both speaker and listener know which cat the speaker refers to.*)

- Article “**the**” is used to talk about a noun that both the speaker and the listener know.

Example:

Please close **the door**. (*Both speaker and listener know which door to close.*)

- Article “**the**” is also used to talk about a noun that is unique (the only one).

Example:

The sun rises in the morning.

The king of Cambodia is very kind.

Present Continuous Tense

Use: Present continuous is used:

- to describe an action that is going on at the time of speaking

Example:

She is studying English grammar now.

- to describe an action that is going on around now

Example:

These days he is watching a new Korean drama.

- to describe a temporary action

Example:

He's living with his brother until he finds a place of his own.

Positive & Negative forms:

Subject	to be (not)	v-ing
He/She/It	is (not)	
You/We/They	are (not)	

Question form:

To be	subject +	v-ing	Short answers
Am	I	eating?	Yes, I am. No, I'm not.
Is	he/she/it		Yes, he/she/it is. No, he/she/it isn't
Are	you/we/they		Yes, you/we/they are. No, you/we/they aren't.

Present Continuous Spelling Rules

Rules	Examples
For most verbs, just add "ing"	Cook – Cooking Eat – Eating
For verbs ending in "e" , delete "e" and add "ing"	Live – living Write – Writing
For verbs ending in "Consonant, Vowel, and Consonant" , double the last consonant and add "ing" .	Sit – Sitting Swim – Swimming
For two-syllable verbs ending with "Consonant, Vowel, and Consonant" and the last syllable is stressed, double the last consonant and add "ing" .	Permit – Permitting
For verbs ending in "X, Y, W," just add "ing"	Fix – Fixing Play – Playing Bow – Bowing
For verbs ending in "ie" , change the "ie" to "y" before adding "ing"	Lie – Lying Die – Dying