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 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.

> 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.