Articles

The articles are *a, an* and *the.* Articles point out the nouns.

* *A* and *an* are **indefinite articles.** They point out any one of a class of people, places or things.
* *A* is used before a word that begins with a consonant.
* *An* is used before a vowel or vowel sound

**a** dollar **a** president **an** engraving

**an** hour **an** ancient coin **a** marker

* *The* is the **definite article.**  It points out a specific person, place or thing.

**the** plumber **the** San Francisco Mint **the** coffee mug

Find the article in this sentence? What noun does it point out?

 St. Louis sits on a major waterway.

 The indefinite article “a” points out the noun waterway.

Which one of these sentences uses the definite article?

1. The money we collected is missing.
2. We put coins in a quart jar.
3. I have an ancient penny.

Classwork Exercise 1

Directions: Add the indefinite article “a” or “an” before each noun.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. \_\_\_\_\_ nickel
 | 6. \_\_\_\_\_ quarter |
| 1. \_\_\_\_\_ eagle
 | 7. \_\_\_\_\_ portrait |
| 1. \_\_\_\_\_ dime
 | 8. \_\_\_\_\_ coin |
| 1. \_\_\_\_\_ olive branch
 | 9. \_\_\_\_\_ bill |
| 1. \_\_\_\_\_ eye
 | 10. \_\_\_\_\_ invention |

Classwork Exercise 2

Directions: Find all of the articles in each sentence.  Tell the noun the article points out.

1. The first mint in the United States was created in 1792.
2. A man named David Rittenhouse was the director of the mint.
3. The mint’s coins were made of gold, silver, or copper.
4. Until 1873 the mint was an independent agency.
5. A mint is now located in four different cities.
6. The mints produce billions of coins a year.

Answers:

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2. A man named David Rittenhouse was the director of the mint.
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