



Articles Pronunciation

The indefinite articles are a, an and some. We can pronounce these “perfectly” by using the big open sounds.

a
/æ/

an
/æn/

an
/sʌm/

But we can be very lazy in English and, sometimes, use a “weak form” instead. Here, we replace the big vowels with the schwa sound.

a
/ə/

an
/ən/

an
/sʌm/

When we use the articles a and an, we can also introduce connected speech and try to blend them into the words either side.

I have a pen
and a pencil



The definite article can be pronounced in two different ways. The pronunciation depends on the first sound of the following word.

the
/ðə/

the
/ði:/

We use the short vowel pronunciation when the following word starts with a consonant sound.

the
/ðə/

The dog

The cat

The bird

We use the long vowel pronunciation when the following word starts with a vowel sound.

the
/ði:/

The **e**lephant

The **a**lligator

The **i**nsect