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| Articles: Singular and Non-count Generic Nouns | |
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| **USE:** | **Singular *concrete* generic nouns** use **“A/AN”** when an individual member of the noun class is being referred to in relation to a singular noun phrase.  *Examples: A marathon runner needs* ***a good pair of shoes****.*  *A cordless phone uses* ***a battery for power****.*  **Singular *abstract* generic nouns** can also be used with **“A/AN”** if they refer to one individual at a time.  *Example: An/The elephant uses* ***its trunk*** *for many things.*  NOT: *An elephant is endangered because of over-hunting and loss of habitat.*  **Non-count generic nouns** do not require articles, even when they are used with modifiers.  Example: *Coffee is a popular drink.*  *Colombian coffee is delicious.*  *Hawaiian coffee is one the most expensive varieties.* |

*Check (√) the GENERIC sentence in each pair.*

1. a. My neighbour has *a sports car*.

b. *A sports car* can be fast and dangerous.

2. a. I am growing *a vegetable garden* in my backyard.

b. Having *a vegetable garden* can help save money on groceries.

3. a. *A dog* is very loyal to its owner.

b. When I was a child, I had *a dog*.

4. a. *A doctor* uses a stethoscope to check patients’ hearts.

b. *A doctor* examined me right away when I arrived in the emergency room.

*Correct the errors in the following GENERIC sentences. Each sentence has one error with articles.*

1. The rice is a staple food in many parts of Asia.
2. A wolf lives in Northern Ontario.
3. A tea is the most popular drink in the world.
4. A cat is nocturnal.
5. The good student reviews his or her lessons regularly.