

The, a and an (Pronunciation)

- Description:** Definite and indefinite articles before vowel and consonant sounds.
- Use with or after:** *English Network Starter Compact*, Unit 4.
- Skill:** Pronunciation
- Focus:** Pronunciation of *the*, and the use of *a* and *an* before vowel and consonant sounds.
- Time:** 10 minutes
- Preparation:**
- Print out the worksheet and make a copy for each student.
 - Cut on the vertical dotted line to remove the key.
 - Do not cut on the horizontal line.
- Procedure:**
- Remind the students of the two different pronunciations of the definite article, before consonant and vowel sounds.
 - Write [ðə] → [ði] on the board, and ask the students to repeat after you individually and in chorus.
 - Remind them of the two different indefinite articles, *a* before consonant sounds, and *an* before vowel sounds. (This distinction was introduced in unit 1 of *English Network Starter Compact*.)
 - Give each student a copy of the work sheet, without the key. Explain that for questions 1–9 they should tick (✓) the box under the correct pronunciation of the definite article, and that for questions 10–20 they should tick the box under the correct indefinite article. (Write on the board if necessary: “✓, not X”.)
 - The students should make their choices individually, and then compare their answers with a partner.
 - When they have done this, distribute the key so they can check their answers.
 - Finally, read out the sentences yourself and ask the class to repeat after you in chorus.



| | [ðə] | [ði] |
|--|------|------|
| 1 Let's go to the Chinese restaurant. | | |
| 2 No, I don't like the idea. | | |
| 3 I don't like the food there. | | |
| 4 Let's go to the Italian restaurant. | | |
| 5 Is it near the station? | | |
| 6 No, it's near the agency. | | |
| 7 The pizzas there are really good. | | |
| 8 Can I use the telephone, please? | | |
| 9 I don't know the answer. | | |

Key

| | [ðə] | [ði] |
|---|------|------|
| 1 | ✓ | |
| 2 | | ✓ |
| 3 | ✓ | |
| 4 | | ✓ |
| 5 | ✓ | |
| 6 | | ✓ |
| 7 | ✓ | |
| 8 | ✓ | |
| 9 | | ✓ |

| | a | an |
|---|---|----|
| 10 Do you work for ... German bank? | | |
| 11 No, I don't. I work for ... English bank. | | |
| 12 Do you know ... Indian restaurant near here? | | |
| 13 Yes, I know ... good Indian restaurant. | | |
| 14 Are you ... student? | | |
| 15 Yes, I'm ... Austrian student. | | |
| 16 I work for ... agency in Richmond. | | |
| 17 It's ... job agency, and it's very good. | | |
| 18 Can you use ... computer? | | |
| 19 Yes, but this is ... American computer. | | |
| 20 It's not ... German computer. | | |

| | a | an |
|----|---|----|
| 10 | ✓ | |
| 11 | | ✓ |
| 12 | | ✓ |
| 13 | ✓ | |
| 14 | ✓ | |
| 15 | | ✓ |
| 16 | | ✓ |
| 17 | ✓ | |
| 18 | ✓ | |
| 19 | | ✓ |
| 20 | ✓ | |