Article Usage Flow Chart

Center for Communication Practices

Folsom Library—Lower Level   www.ccp.rpi.edu

Is the noun countable?

No → Is the noun definite? **No** → You do not need an article.

Yes ↓ Use "the"

Yes ↓

Is the noun singular?

No → Is the noun definite? **No** → You do not need an article.

Yes ↓ Use "the"

Yes ↓

Is the noun definite?

No → Does the noun begin w/ a vowel sound? **No** → Use "a"

Yes ↓ Use "the"

Yes ↓ Use "an"

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