

A vs The

Use **a / an** when the listener doesn't know which one you mean, or it doesn't matter: *I talked to a manager.* Use **the** when you both know exactly which one: *I talked to the manager.* (the one we both know about)

A / AN · ANY ONE, NEW TO THE LISTENER

I talked to **a manager**.



a manager

one of the managers

THE · THE ONE WE BOTH KNOW

I talked to **the manager**.



the manager

the one we both know

1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- I bought a shirt and a jacket. _____ jacket was on sale.
a) A b) The
- Is there _____ bank near here?
a) a b) the
- _____ moon was full last night.
a) The b) A
- This is _____ most expensive restaurant in town.
a) a b) the
- My sister is _____ nurse.
a) a b) the

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. Could you close a door, please?

2. She's a best student in the class.

3. I have the new job. It's in Cluj.

3. Your turn

Write two sentences about your own life: one with **A / An** and one with **The**. Then explain the difference to a partner.

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/compare/a-vs-the

A vs The

1. Choose the right answer

1. **b) The** Second mention: the listener now knows which jacket.
2. **a) a** Any bank will do, so the listener doesn't need to know which one.
3. **a) The** There's only one moon in our sky.
4. **b) the** Superlatives take the.
5. **a) a** Saying what someone's job is takes a or an.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **Could you close the door, please?** You both know which door: the one in the room.
2. **She's the best student in the class.** Only one student can be the best, so superlatives take the.
3. **I have a new job. It's in Cluj.** It's the first time you mention the job, so it's new to the listener.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.