

Articles

There are two types of articles: definite, the word 'the', and indefinite, the words 'a' and 'an'.

Indefinite article = a, an

Definite article = the

When writing, it is important to use the correct article, so that the meaning is clear to the reader.

Example:

The phone rings but her mum lets the answering machine take a message.

A phone rings but her mum lets the answering machine take a message.

The book is talking about **the** phone in Nancy's house, not **a** phone which could belong to anyone, anywhere.

Aboriginal English has very little use for articles.

In Aboriginal English it is very common to hear sentences like "You got pen?". The Standard Australian English sentence would be, "Have you got a pen?". The auxiliary verb 'have' is missing, but so is the article 'a'. If the question was, "Have you got the pen?", it would mean something else. It is a specific pen that has been borrowed.

Aboriginal English	Standard Australian English
"'E watched race back 'ome dere."	
"'Ole team played no good on weekend."	
"Dat your name in paper?"	
"Whad's score dere?"	
"'Ose bag on floor in changeroom?"	
"We never saw class go to no library."	
"You got money for e'scursion?"	
"What you got in pocket on dat side?"	
"We is going to shop."	
'We need book today?"	