

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The workers at the plant do not belong to a union.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The police officer was not wearing an uniform when she arrested the suspect.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. If you do not give me a hand, finishing the project on time will be an impossibility.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. She was upset when a honest mistake was made.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. She opened a account at a local department store.

### SKILL 54: MAKE ARTICLES AGREE WITH NOUNS

The definite article (*the*) is used for both singular and plural nouns, so agreement is not a problem with the definite article. However, because the use of the indefinite article is different for singular and plural nouns, you must be careful of agreement between the indefinite article and the noun. One very common agreement error is to use the singular indefinite article (*a* or *an*) with a plural noun.

He saw *a\** new *movies*.

They traveled to *a\** nearby *mountains*.

Do you have *another\** *books*?

In these examples, you should not have *a* or *an* because the nouns are plural. The following sentences are possible corrections of the sentences above.

He saw a new movie. (singular)

He saw new movies. (plural)

They traveled to a nearby mountain. (singular)

They traveled to nearby mountains. (plural)

Do you have another book? (singular)

Do you have other books? (plural)

The following chart states the key point for you to remember about the agreement of articles with nouns:

<b>AGREEMENT OF ARTICLES WITH NOUNS</b>
You should never use <i>a</i> or <i>an</i> with a plural noun.

**EXERCISE 54:** Each of the following sentences contains *a* or *an*. Circle each *a* or *an*. Draw an arrow to the noun it describes. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

C 1. She went to school in (a) local community.

I 2. The doctor used (an) other pills.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. It is necessary to have a farm or land of your own.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. He must contact a members of the club.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. You will need a pen or a pencil.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. He is responsible for bringing a number of items.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. You must write a report on a subjects of your choice.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. They crossed through several forests and a stream.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. There will be another important lessons tomorrow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. He could not give me a good reasons for what he did.

### SKILL 55: DISTINGUISH SPECIFIC AND GENERAL IDEAS

With countable singular nouns it is possible to use either the definite or the indefinite article, but they have different meanings. The definite article is used to refer to one specific noun.

Tom will bring *the* book tomorrow.

(There is one specific book that Tom will bring tomorrow.)

He will arrive on *the* first Tuesday in July.

(There is only one first Tuesday in July.)

He sailed on *the* Pacific Ocean.

(There is only one Pacific Ocean.)

The indefinite article is used when the noun could be one of several different nouns.

Tom will bring *a* book tomorrow.

(Tom will bring any one book.)

He will arrive on *a* Tuesday in July.

(He will arrive on one of four Tuesdays in July.)

He sailed on *an* ocean.

(He sailed on any one of the world's oceans.)

The following chart outlines the key information that you should understand about specific and general ideas:

SPECIFIC AND GENERAL IDEAS		
ARTICLE	MEANING	USES
A OR AN	general idea	Use when there are <i>many</i> , and you do not <i>know</i> which one it is. Use when there are <i>many</i> , and you do not <i>care</i> which one it is.
THE	specific idea	Use when it is <i>the only one</i> . Use when there are <i>many</i> , and you <i>know</i> which one it is.