

Nominative Definite Articles (Exercises)

Fireann - Masculine

Masculine nouns use the following table to form the definite article:

Initial Letter	Form of 'the'	Examples
Vowel	an t-	an t-òran (the song)
m, b, f, p	am	am bòrd (the table)
all others	an	an càr (the car)

Join the following masculine nouns with the definite article using the table above. Include the given adjective.

Eisimpleir: *òran, furasta* *an t-òran furasta*

1. aodach, spaideil _____
2. baile, beartach _____
3. balla, tiugh _____
4. bàla, dubh _____
5. cofaidh, làidir _____
6. dealan-dè, àlainn _____
7. each, donn _____
8. falt, ruadh _____
9. gàrradh, trang _____
10. hamstair, acrach _____
11. iasgair, sgìth _____
12. leann, fuar _____
13. mathan, cadalach _____
14. nàmhaid, olc _____
15. oileanach, dìcheallach _____
16. piobaire, glic _____
17. ròn, reamhar _____
18. solas, soilleir _____
19. tarbh, feargach _____
20. uilebheist, càirdeil _____

Boireann - Feminine

Feminine nouns lenite any adjectives that DIRECTLY modify them. When using the column method, adjectives that directly modify the subject are in the same column as the subject. Feminine nouns use the following table to form the definite article:

Initial Letter	Form of 'the'	Examples
b, c, g, m, p	a*	a' phòg (the kiss)
F	an*	an fhaoileag (the seagull)
s + l, n, r, vowel	an t-	an t-seachdain (the week)
all others (d, t, vowels, l, n, r, sg, sm, sp, st)	an	an sgian (the knife)

*causes lenition

Join the following feminine nouns with the definite article using the table above. Include the given adjective and make any appropriate modifications.

Eisimpleir: *faoileag, geal* *an fhaoileag gheal*

1. abhainn, mòr _____
2. bàrdachd, brèagha _____
3. bracaist, blasta _____
4. caora, snog _____
5. craobh, mòr _____
6. deoch, fuar _____
7. eaglais, buidhe _____
8. feusag, mòr _____
9. gainmheach, blàth _____
10. hama, blasta _____
11. iolaire, misneachail _____
12. lèine, dearg _____
13. mil, milis _____
14. nathair, fada _____
15. oidhche, sàmhach _____
16. piseag, toilichte _____
17. rabaid, beag _____
18. sìde, math _____
19. tràigh, geal _____
20. uinneag, mòr _____

Mìneachadh

What on Earth does ‘Nominative Definite Article’ mean? ‘Nominative’ refers to the form of a noun that is the subject of a sentence. It’s the basic form that you look up in the dictionary. The ‘definite article’ is the word ‘the’ in English. It means that the subject is specific. English also has an ‘indefinite article’ - ‘a’. An indefinite subject is unspecified.

I saw A cat walk down the street. *I saw (some random cat) walk down the street.*

I saw THE cat walk down the street. *I saw (the specific cat we were talking about) walk down the street.*

In Gaelic, there is no indefinite article. However, there are several forms of the definite article, so we have to care about the grammatical gender of the subject, and the initial letter, when figuring out which form of ‘the’ to use.

Freagairtean - Answers

Fireann

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. an t-aodach spaideil | the smart attire |
| 2. am baile beartach | the wealthy town |
| 3. am balla tiugh | the thick wall |
| 4. am bàla dubh | the black ball |
| 5. an cofaidh làidir | the strong coffee |
| 6. an dealan-dè àlainn | the beautiful butterfly |
| 7. an t-each donn | the brown horse |
| 8. am falt ruadh | the red hair |
| 9. an gàrradh trang | the busy garden |
| 10. an hamstair acrach | the hungry hamster |
| 11. an t-iasgair sgìth | the tired fisherman |
| 12. an leann fuar | the cold beer |
| 13. am mathan cadalach | the sleepy bear |
| 14. an nàmhaid olc | the evil enemy |
| 15. an t-oileanach dìcheallach | the diligent student |
| 16. am pìobaire glic | the wise piper |
| 17. an ròn reamhar | the fat seal |

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|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 18. an solas soilleir | the bright light |
| 19. an tarbh feargach | the angry bull |
| 20. an t-uilebheist càirdeil | the friendly monster |

Boireann

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. an abhainn mhòr | the wide river |
| 2. a' bhàrdachd bhrèagha | the beautiful poem |
| 3. a' bhracaist bhlasta | the tasty breakfast |
| 4. a' chaora shnog | the cute sheep |
| 5. a' chraobh mhòr | the big tree |
| 6. an deoch fhuar | the cold drink |
| 7. an eaglais bhuidhe | the yellow church |
| 8. an fheusag mhòr | the big beard |
| 9. a' ghainmheach bhlàth | the warm sand |
| 10. an hama bhlasta | the tasty ham |
| 11. an iolaire mhisneachail | the confident eagle |
| 12. an lèine dhearg | the red shirt |
| 13. a' mhil mhilis | the sweet honey |
| 14. an nathair fhada | the long snake |
| 15. an oidhche shàmhach | the quiet night |
| 16. a' phiseag thoilichte | the happy kitten |
| 17. an rabaid bheag | the little rabbit |
| 18. an t-side mhath | the good weather |
| 19. an tràigh gheal | the white beach |
| 20. an uinneag mhòr | the large window |