

The words **a** and **the** are special words called **articles**.

**The** is called the **definite article**, because it refers to one specific example:

*The* dog from next door ran into *the* butcher's shop and stole some sausages.

**A**, or **an** if it comes before a vowel, is called the **indefinite article**, because it refers to a general example of something:

A dog ran into *a* shop and stole some sausages.