ARTICLES

INDEFINITE VS. DEFINITE

USING EACH EFFECTIVELY

FROM THE WRITING CENTER AT THE ARC

Indefinite

The inspecific article

"a" and "an"

ex. "a plate"
This lets you/the reader know that this could be any plate, not just a specific one.

Definite

The specific article

"the"

ex. "the party"
This lets you/the reader know that you're talking about one, specific party.