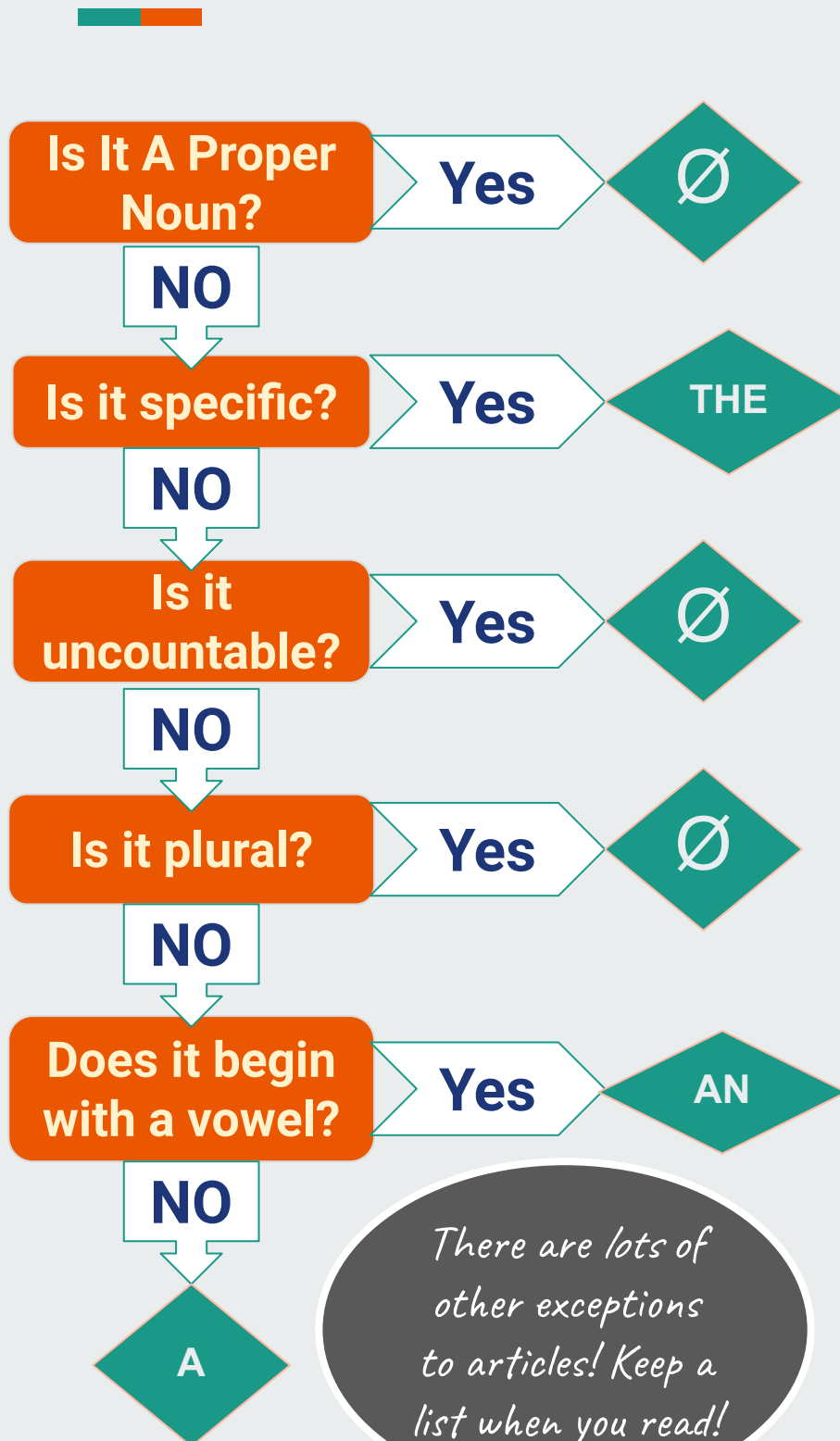


Using Articles: A, An, The

Articles can be especially tricky for people learning English as an additional language. Use the flowchart to determine if the noun you're using requires an article.



There are lots of other exceptions to articles! Keep a list when you read!

SOME EXCEPTIONS...

At Night uses no article, but other times of day do. E.g., *We have to work in the morning. But we don't need to work at night.*

Use A/AN after "**there is**" when referring to a countable noun. e.g., *There is a pen on the table.*

Don't use THE when the adjective clause or adjective phrase does not make the noun definite. E.g., *I want a pen that works.* (any pen that works)

Use A, AN, or THE if the sentence can mean either the general class of object or any one of the objects. E.g., *The guitar can have six or twelve strings.* (entire class) *A guitar can have six or twelve strings.* (any guitar)

Use THE when the name of a language or religion is used as an adjective followed by a noun. E.g., *The English language has words from many other languages.*



Examples drawn from Tom Cole. *The Article Book*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2000.