**DECISION TREE FOR ARTICLES**

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**NOUN PHRASE**

**GENERAL Meaning**
- 1st mention
- all / any
- one

**SPECIFIC Meaning**
1. 2nd mention
2. only one possible (unique reference)
3. shared knowledge between Reader & Writer
4. post-modification
   - prepositional phrase that is part of the Noun it modifies
   - relative (adjective) clause
5. Superlative
6. Ordinal number
7. Positive "of" phrases with plurals
8. Specifiers
9. Names of theories, effects, devices ... + Noun

**COUNT**

**NON-COUNT**

- Sg -- a, an
- Pl --

**NON-COUNT** (Sg) --

- the

**EX:**
- the nature of water
  
- the most exciting story I ever heard
  
- the first, the second, the third, the thirty-first, etc.

EX:
- Water is a necessity for sustaining life.
- Do you see the man whom I described to you?
- the same/the sole/the only/the chief/the principal + N
- the Doppler Effect, the Golden Rule, the Utilitarian Principle