

Using “a” and “an” with Singular Nouns

What You Need to Know

- A **noun** is a word that names a person, animal, place, or thing.
- A **singular noun** means you are talking about just one of something.
- Use **a** or **an** before singular nouns.

Rule 1: Use “an” before vowels

Vowels are: **a, e, i, o, u**

Say:

- an apple
- an octopus
- an egg
- an iguana
- an umbrella

These words begin with vowel **sounds**, so we use **an**.

Rule 2: Use “a” before consonants

Consonants are all the other letters.

Say:

- a tiger
- a pencil
- a rainbow
- a cookie
- a chair

These words begin with consonant **sounds**, so we use **a**.

Rule 3: Watch out for tricky words!

Some words **sound like they begin with a vowel** even if they don't.

Say:

- **an hour** (the “h” is silent)
- **an honor**
- **an heir**

Some words **start with “u”** but sound like they begin with “**yoo**” (a consonant sound).

Say:

- **a unicorn**
- **a uniform**
- **a university**

Part 1: Choose the correct article

Write **a** or **an** before each noun.

1. ___ astronaut
2. ___ tree
3. ___ owl
4. ___ helicopter
5. ___ umbrella
6. ___ horse
7. ___ island
8. ___ cat
9. ___ apple
10. ___ hour

Part 2: Write your own sentences

Use **a** or **an** in each sentence you write.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Part 3: Fix the mistakes

Each sentence below has an error. Cross out the wrong article and write the correct one.

1. She packed **an** lunch in her backpack. → _____
2. We visited **a** igloo in the museum. → _____
3. He waited for **a** hour. → _____
4. I saw **an** uniform hanging on the hook. → _____
5. They found **a** old coin under the floor. → _____
6. He brought **a** envelope filled with money. → _____
7. She carried **an** yellow backpack to school. → _____
8. We watched **an** unicorn fly across the screen. → _____
9. I spotted **a** elephant behind the tree. → _____
10. They visited **an** university during their trip. → _____

Answer Sheet

Part 1: Choose the correct article

1. **an** astronaut
2. **a** tree
3. **an** owl
4. **a** helicopter
5. **an** umbrella
6. **a** horse
7. **an** island
8. **a** cat
9. **an** apple
10. **an** hour

Part 2: Write your own sentences

Answers will vary. Example responses:

1. I saw **a** rainbow after the storm.
2. She found **an** old coin in the garden.
3. We visited **an** aquarium on our field trip.

Part 3: Fix the mistakes

1. She packed **an** lunch in her backpack. → **a**
2. We visited **a** igloo in the museum. → **an**
3. He waited for **a** hour. → **an**
4. I saw **an** uniform hanging on the hook. → **a**
5. They found **a** old coin under the floor. → **an**
6. He brought **a** envelope filled with money. → **an**
7. She carried **an** yellow backpack to school. → **a**
8. We watched **an** unicorn fly across the screen. → **a**
9. I spotted **a** elephant behind the tree. → **an**
10. They visited **an** university during their trip. → **a**



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