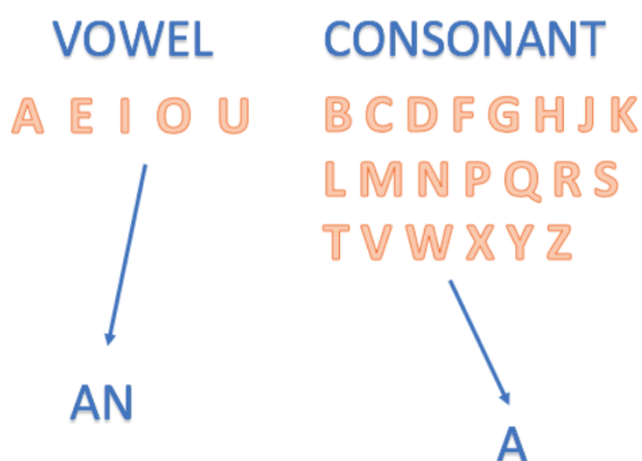


Grammar Review

A, An and Some

A, an and some are indefinite articles that we use to say we have “one” of something. To decide which article we use, we must analyse the first letter of the following noun. If the first letter of the noun is a consonant, then we use A and if the first letter of the noun is a vowel, then we use AN.



EXAMPLES

C A R

The first letter in car is C. C is a consonant, so we must say **a car**.

O R A N G E

The first letter in orange is O. O is a vowel, so we must say **an orange**.



EXCEPTIONS

Sometimes a letter sounds different in English to the way it is written down. This means that the rules for a and an sometimes change too.

- 1) The letter H is a consonant so normally it uses the article a (for example, a house). But sometimes, the letter H is completely silent (hourglass). If the H is silent, then the first sound in the word is a vowel, so we need to change the article to an, **an hourglass**.
- 2) The letter O is a vowel so normally it uses the article an (for example, an orange). But sometimes it sounds like there is a W before it (one-eyed pirate). The sound is a W, which is a consonant, so we change the article to a, **a one-eyed pirate**.
- 3) The letter U is a vowel so normally it uses the article an (for example, an umbrella). But sometimes it sounds like there is a Y before it (university). The sound is a Y, which is a consonant, so we change the article to a, **a university**.

A and an is only used for singular nouns. Some is used for all plural or uncountable nouns.