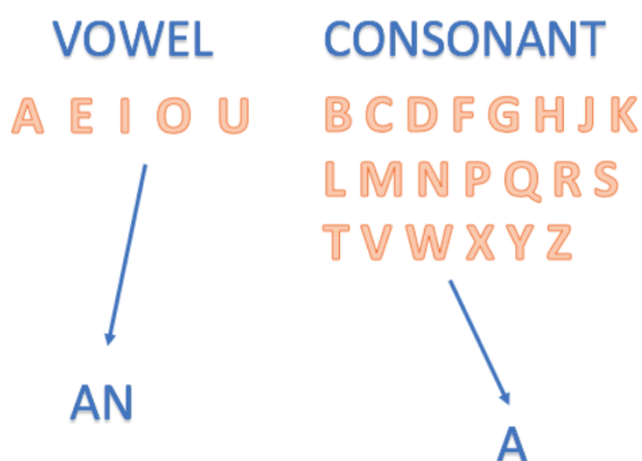


Grammar Review

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.

The Indefinite Articles



Use	Example Sentence
Times first time you talk about something	A man and a dog were walking Is there an orange in the fridge?
Jobs	He's a doctor She's a lawyer
Nationalities (as a noun) <i>* Nationalities as adjectives have no article</i>	I'm a Brit He's a Spaniard
Religions (as a noun) <i>* Religions as adjectives have no article</i>	She's a Catholic He's a Muslim
Expressions with what	What a shame! What a beautiful day!
Expressions meaning per/for each	I have English class four times a week I'm driving my car at 30 miles an hour
Single letters and numbers	She got an A in her exam How did you do in your exam? I got an 8!
Comparative noun phrases <i>*EXCEPTION: Double comparative. This uses the definite article instead e.g. The hotter the day, the more tired you become</i>	He's a better singer than her She's a more beautiful person than you
Expressions of quantity	I've got a few pencils in my hand Is there a bit of milk left?