

Year 3 – Indefinite article ‘a’ or ‘an’.

When we are talking about objects we use 'a' or 'an' before the **noun**, eg: we say 'a' **rabbit** or 'an' **umbrella**.

If the **noun** begins with a vowel we *usually* use 'an'. For example, **an elephant** sat on **an umbrella**.

If the noun begins with a consonant we use 'a'. For example, **a leaf** blew down from **a tree**.

- 1) Do you know which 5 letters of the alphabet are vowels?
Try writing them down, think of a noun starting with each letter and using **an** before them in a sentence.

- 2) Look at these nouns, can you identify if they begin with a vowel or consonant?
Write these nouns in a sentence using 'a' or 'an' before them or sort them into two lists.

table boy igloo armchair goat dog
elephant chocolate bar apple octopus ice lolly

- 3) Can you think of 5 nouns of your own and decide if they need 'a' or 'an' before them.
Write them in a story or paragraph it can be sensible or silly.

4) **CHALLENGE:**

There are some tricky words when using 'a' or 'an'.

Some words do not fit into the rule of vowel and consonant, those are words which start with a vowel but the initial sound is a consonant letter.

For example hour (starts with a consonant 'h', but sounds like 'ou').

This word has 'an' before it - It was *an hour* before bedtime.

The same is true of the opposite. University starts with 'u' but sounds like 'y' so it has 'a' before it. I went to visit *a university* with my sister.

Can you work out which article goes before these tricky words?

utility heir hero history hotel universe

Can you write a rule for using 'a' and 'an' when writing?

Next time you read your book look out for 'a' and 'an'.