***Articles***

*Grammar*

Private Tutoring

Use 1

The article **a** is used before *singular, countable nouns, which begin with a* ***consonant*** *sound*

Examples:

* He is **a *t****eacher*

**article** + *noun*

* She doesn’t own **a *c****ar.*

**article** + *noun*

* I saw **a *b****ear*.

**article** + *noun*

Use 2

The article **an** is used before *singular, countable nouns which begin with* ***vowel*** *sounds.*

Examples:

* He is **an *a****ctor*

**article** + *noun*

* She didn’t get **an *i****nvitation*

**article** + *noun*

* I saw **an *e****agle.*

**article** + *noun*

Use 3

If there’s an **adjective** or an *adverb*-**adjective** combination before the noun

**a** and **an** should agree with the first sound in the adjective or the adverb-adjective combination.

Examples:

* He is an **excellent** teacher.

article + **adjective ­**+ noun

* I saw a *really* **beautiful** eagle.

article + *adverb*+ **adjective ­**+ noun

**LETS PRACTICE**: complete exercises 1 and 2

Use 4

Use **a** before words which SOUND like they start with a **consonant**

even though the first letter is a *vowel.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| For example: | Sounds like: |
| *E*uropean | **Y**uropean |
| *U*niversity | **Y**ouniversity |

Also use **a** before letters and numbers which SOUND like they start with a **consonant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| For example: | Sounds like: |
| **U** | **Y**ou |
| **o**ne | **W**on |

Remember! It is the SOUND not the spelling that is important.

Examples

* She has **a** *euro. (sounds like* ***y****uro)*
* That number is **a** *1. (sounds like* ***w****on)*

Use 5

Use **an** before words which SOUND like they start with a **vowel** even though the first letter is a *consonant*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| For example: | Sounds like: |
| *h*our | **O**ur |

Also use **an** before letters and numbers which SOUND like they start with a **vowel**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| For example: | Sounds like: |
| F | **E**ff |
| 8 | **Ei**ght or **Ay**t |

Remember! It is the SOUND not the spelling that is important.

Examples:

* I only have **an** *hour* for lunch.

sounds like “our”

* Does his name begin with **an** “F”?

sounds like “eff”

Use 6

Some words are more complicated because they are pronounced differently in different English accents.

In most Native American accents, the “h” in herb is *silent*: “an *~~h~~***e**rb.”

In many British accents, the “h” in “herb” is **pronounced**: “a **h**erb.”

**LETS PRACTICE**: complete exercises 3 - 6