Advanced Use of Articles: a and an

Use the word **a** before nouns or adjectives that begin with a consonant sound.

*example:* I listened to **a** terrific song on the radio.

Use the word **an** before nouns or adjectives that begin with a vowel sound.

*example:* I saw **an** exciting movie last night.

Remember, **an** is used when a word begins with a vowel sound. Sometimes a word can begin with a vowel, but start with a consonant sound.

*example:* Inches are **a** unit of measurement on a ruler.

The word unit begins with the consonant y-sound (yoo-nit), so you would use the article **a**.

Sometimes a word will begin with a silent consonant, but a vowel sound. When this happens you use **an**.

*example:* Mr. Bolivia is **an** honest man.

Even though honest begins with a consonant, the h is silent. The word begins with a vowel sound, so you would use **an**.

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**P R E V I E W**

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5. Samuel painted ____ unusual picture.  
6. It was a picture of ____ unicorn on a space ship.

7. Do you have ____ extra pencil?  

10. He went to the hospital for ____ x-ray.

11. My sister will attend ____ university when she finishes high school.
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example: I listened to **a** terrific song on the radio.

Use the word **an** before nouns or adjectives that begin with a vowel sound.

example: I saw **an** exciting movie last night.

Remember: The word **an** is used when a word begins with a vowel sound.
Sometimes a word can begin with a vowel, but start with a consonant sound.

example: Inches are **a** unit of measurement on a ruler.

Write the word **a** or **an** on each line to complete each sentence.

1. I ate dinner over **an** hour ago.

2. Dad made **a** delicious pork roast.

3. My brother is **a** soldier in the army.

4. He wears **a** uniform.

5. Samuel painted **an** unusual picture.

6. It was a picture of **a** unicorn on a space ship.

7. Do you have **an** extra pencil?

8. My pencil broke during **an** English test.

9. Kelly broke **a** bone in his leg.

10. He went to the hospital for **an** x-ray.

11. My sister will attend **a** university when she finishes high school.

~PREVIEW~

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