

Name: _____

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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PREVIEW

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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?
8. My pencil broke during ___ English test.
9. Kelly broke ___ bone in his leg.
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.*



~ **PREVIEW** ~

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