**Articles A and An**

**Objectives**

In this mini-lesson, students will:
- Identify the articles a and an.
- Use the correct article with nouns.
- Write using the articles a and an.

**Preparation**

**Materials Needed**

- Pictures of objects or real objects to use for EL support
- Chart paper and markers
- Articles A and An (BLM 7)
- Interactive whiteboard resources

**Advanced Preparation**

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the Articles chart and the modeling text onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson. Select familiar pictures of objects or gather real objects—some that begin with consonants and some with vowels.

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**1. Focus**

**Explain Articles A and An**

**Say:** The words a and an are both called articles. They are used with a noun to help you know what the noun is referring to. We use the article a when the noun begins with a consonant. We use the article an when the noun begins with a vowel: a, e, i, o, or u.

Display the following chart on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources. Read aloud each example. If necessary, use each word in a sentence to ensure that students understand the meaning of the words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article—A</th>
<th>Article—An</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a spoon</td>
<td>an apple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a bowl</td>
<td>an elephant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a grape</td>
<td>an orange</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example Articles Chart**

**Say:** Look at the phrase a spoon. The word spoon is the noun and it begins with a consonant, so we need to use the article a. Look at the phrase an apple. The noun apple begins with a vowel, so we use the article an.

Now, look at the next row of phrases. The noun bowl begins with a consonant, so we use the article a. The word elephant begins with a vowel, so we use the article an.

In the last row, we see that the noun grape begins with a consonant so we use the article a. The word orange begins with a vowel, so we use the article an.

**Model Using Articles**

**Say:** I wrote some sentences that use the articles a and an. When I read each sentence, I need to pay attention to the nouns to see if they begin with a consonant or a vowel. I know that the article a is used with a consonant and the article an is used with a vowel.

Display the modeling text on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources, and read the text aloud to students.

**Modeling Text**

On a cold, rainy day, we went to a movie at the mall. We took an umbrella and a hat to keep us dry.
**Say:** First, I will look for places where I used the article a and circle them. I used the article a in front of the word cold, because the word cold begins with a consonant. (Underline the consonant.) I also used the article a in front of the words movie and hat because movie and hat also begin with consonants. (Underline the consonants.) I used the article an in front of the word umbrella because umbrella begins with a vowel. Circle the article an and underline the vowel u.

**2. Rehearse**

**Practice Using Articles A and An**

**Say:** Let’s practice using a or an in front of nouns.

Ask students to work with a partner to think of two nouns that begin with consonants and need the article a, and two nouns that begin with a vowel and need the article an. Ask students to develop oral sentences using their words with the correct articles.

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

**Share Sentences with Articles**

Encourage students to share their words and sentences with the class. Record sample sentences on chart paper and circle the article in each sentence. Discuss the sentences by asking the following questions:

- Which words begin with a consonant?
- Which words begin with a vowel?
- If a noun begins with a consonant, do we use a or an?
- If a noun begins with a vowel, do we use a or an?

### Strategies to Support ELs

**Beginning**

Make a two-column chart like the one below. Point to objects in the classroom as you use the appropriate article with each object. Write each object in the appropriate column. Invite students to repeat each article and noun as you say it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>An</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a book</td>
<td>an apple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a chair</td>
<td>an orange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a computer</td>
<td>an easel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a desk</td>
<td>an animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a pen</td>
<td>an umbrella</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Intermediate and Advanced**

Pair students with fluent English speakers for the partner practice activity.

**3. Independent Writing and Conferring**

**Say:** Remember that a and an are articles. We use a when in front of a noun that begins with a consonant. We use an if the noun begins with a vowel. As you write your procedural texts, check that you are using the right articles in front of your nouns.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using articles, have them complete BLM 7.

**4. Share**

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share their answers to BLM 7. Provide corrective feedback as necessary.