Year 3 Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar Warm-Up Powerpoint

Using ‘a’ or ‘an’

Warm-Up



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Quality Standard Approved

Consonant or Vowel?

Sort the letters of the alphabet into two groups: **consonants** and **vowels**.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n

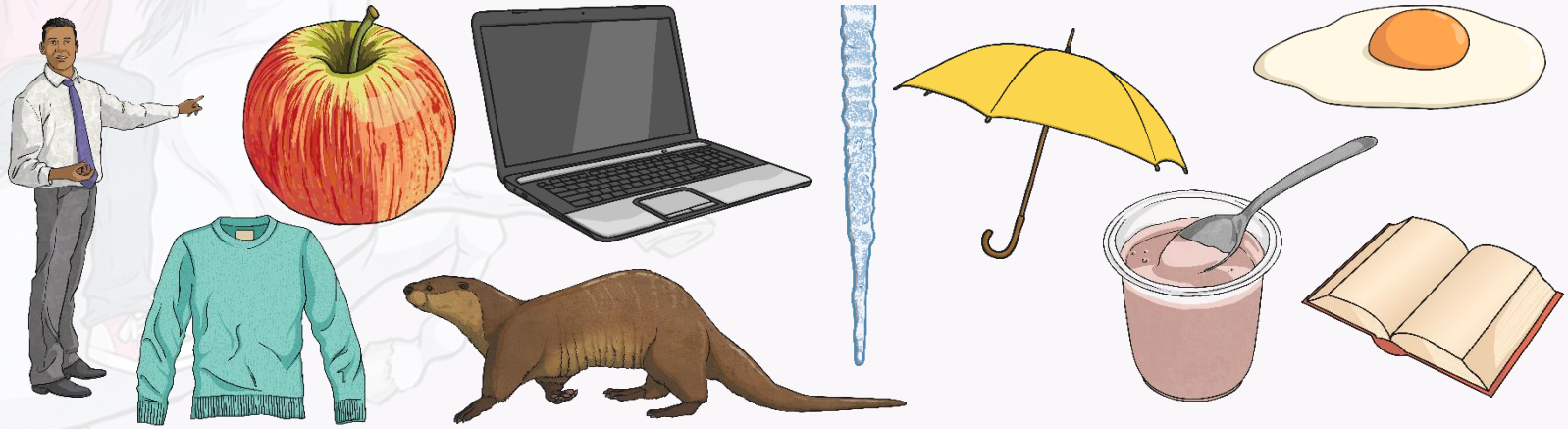
o p q r s t u v w x y z

Consonants	Vowels
b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z	a e i o u

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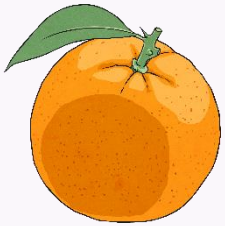
Sort the Words!

Words starting with a consonant	Words starting with a vowel
teacher	egg
jumper	apple
laptop	otter
book	umbrella
yoghurt	icicle



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‘a’ or ‘an’?



an orange



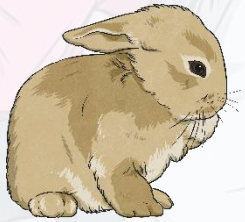
a house



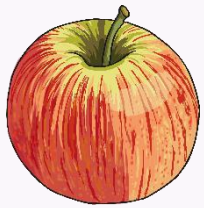
a pencil



an envelope



a rabbit



an apple

Usually, we put ‘a’ before words that start with a consonant and ‘an’ before words that start with a vowel.

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‘a’ or ‘an’?

Try these sentences – should it be ‘a’ or ‘an’?

Tomorrow, I am going to a party.



Humpty Dumpty was an egg.



I always have an umbrella in my bag in case it rains.



The dog was on a lead.



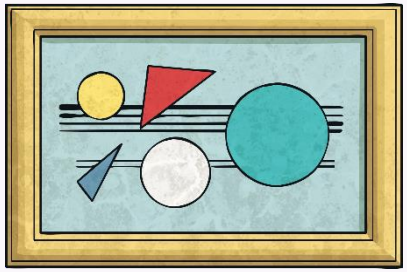
You can make a house out of snow, which is called an igloo.



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‘a’ or ‘an’?

Which sounds correct?



It was **a unique** painting.

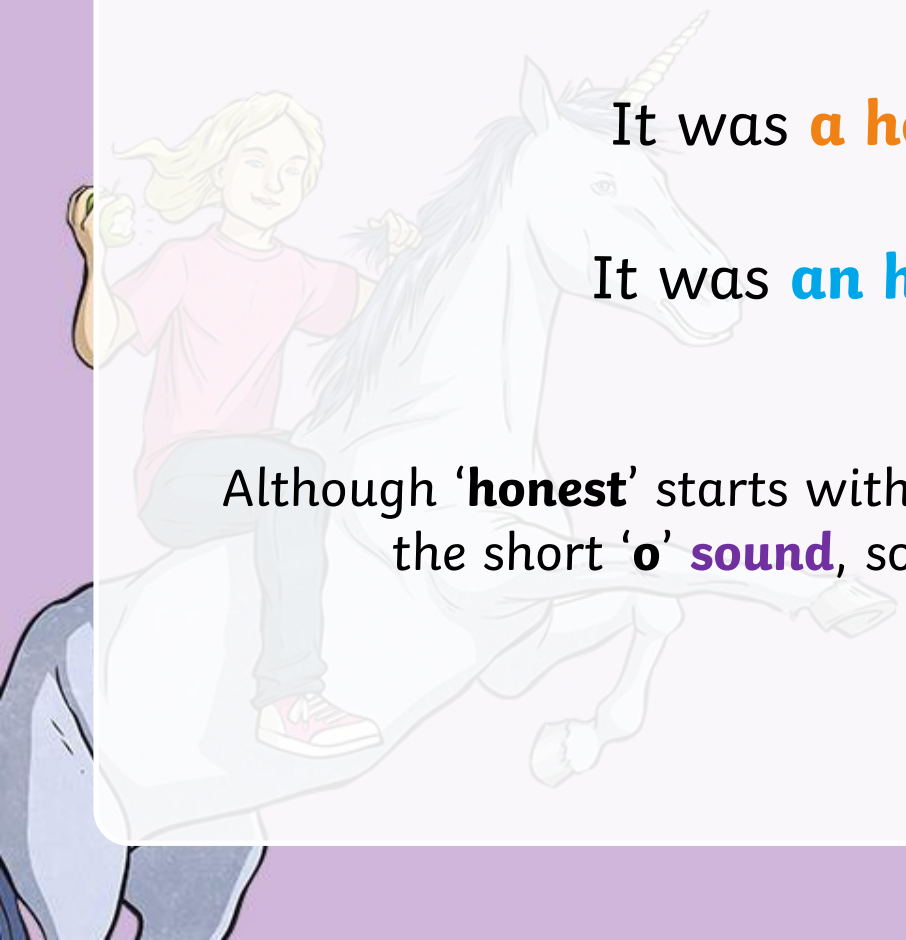
It was **an unique** painting.

Although ‘**unique**’ starts with a vowel, the letter ‘**u**’ makes the ‘**y**’ **sound**, so ‘**a**’ is used instead of ‘**an**’.

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‘a’ or ‘an’?

Which sounds correct?



It was **a honest** mistake.

It was **an honest** mistake.

Although ‘**honest**’ starts with a consonant, the letter ‘**h**’ makes the short ‘**o**’ **sound**, so ‘**an**’ is used instead of ‘**a**’.

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‘a’ or ‘an’?

Listen to the **sound** at the start of the underlined word.
Does it make a **vowel** sound or a **consonant** sound?

It took **an** hour to get to the zoo.

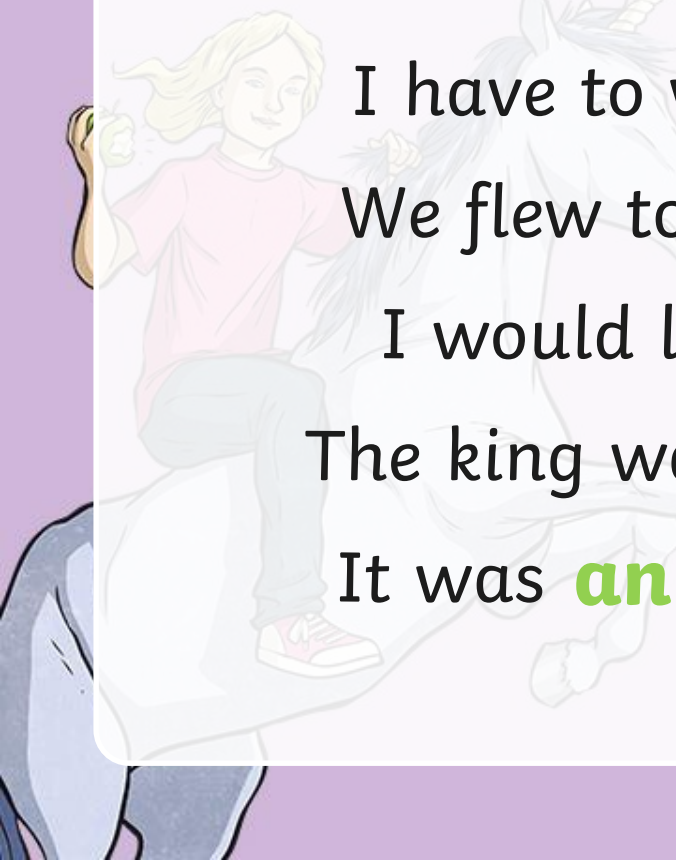
I have to wear **a** uniform to school.

We flew to **a** universe far, far away.

I would love to ride on **a** unicorn.

The king wanted **an** heir to the throne.

It was **an** honour to meet the Queen.



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Can you decide whether ‘a’ or ‘an’ should go before these words?
Click on the hotspots to see whether you are correct.



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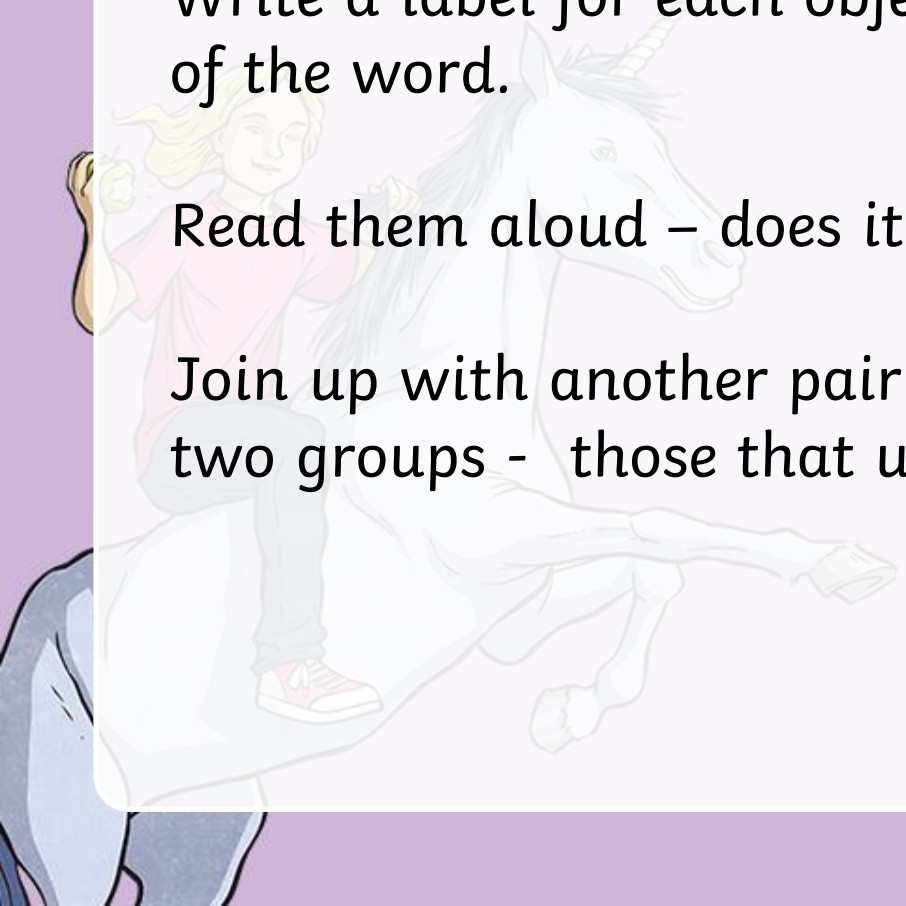
‘a’ or ‘an’ Hunt

With a partner, collect five objects from the classroom.

Write a label for each object adding ‘a’ or ‘an’ in front of the word.

Read them aloud – does it sound right?

Join up with another pair and put your objects into two groups - those that use ‘**a**’ and those that use ‘**an**’.



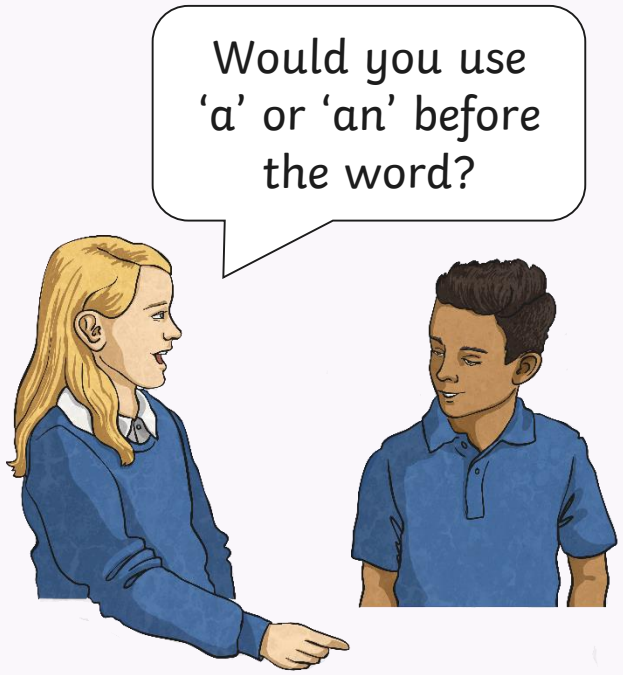
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Spin the Wheel!

Spin the wheel to select a word.



Spin



On your whiteboards, write a sentence using the word with the correct choice of 'a' or 'an'. Make your sentence as interesting as you can!

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An Adventure To a Lost World

Can you spot the 'a' or 'an' mistakes in the following passage?

The waves lapped gently against the side of the boat, as a young boy and his faithful dog arrived at the shore of **an small, deserted island. It was a island so** small, that the boy could see right over to the other side from where he sat.

Jumping out of the boat into the shallow water, his foot landed on **an sharp shell.**



"Ouch!" he yelped, startling his dog, who was sleeping on **a enormous blanket at one end of the boat.**

Stretching to wake himself up, the dog looked at the boy sleepily, before jumping into the clear, blue, sea.

They paddled to the shore and looked around at the island. In the centre was **an** huge palm tree as high as a ten storey building and surrounding it was **an** collection of every type of fruit tree imaginable.

Hungry from their journey across the sea, the boy began to ravenously eat the different fruits on offer.

He started with **a** apple, a banana, **a** orange **and a whole bunch of juicy grapes,** while his dog looked on, **an** look **of jealousy on his face.**

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‘a’ or ‘an’ Word Search

How many words can you think of in two minutes that word need ‘a’ or ‘an’ before them?

‘a’	‘an’





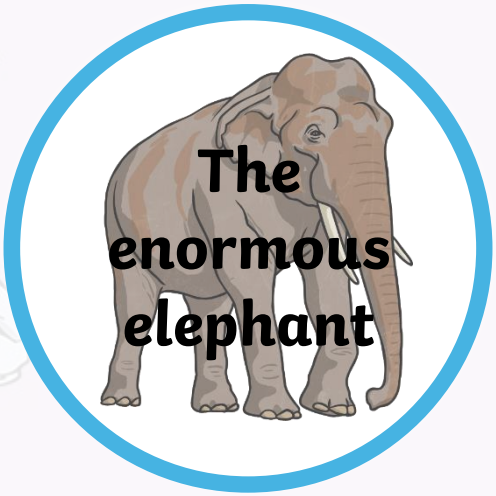
Time’s up!

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The, the Definite Article

What is different about these examples?







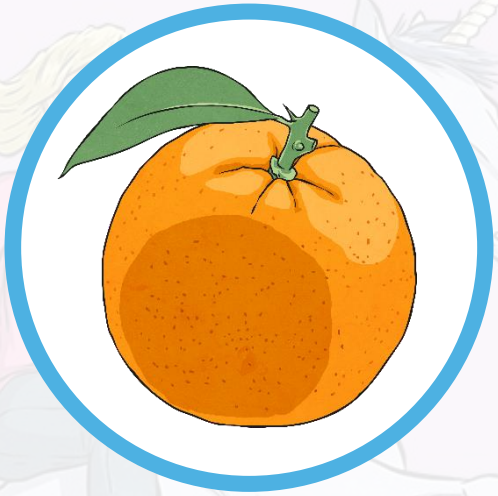
We use ‘the’, the definite article, to show people what we are talking about **specifically**.

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The, the Definite Article

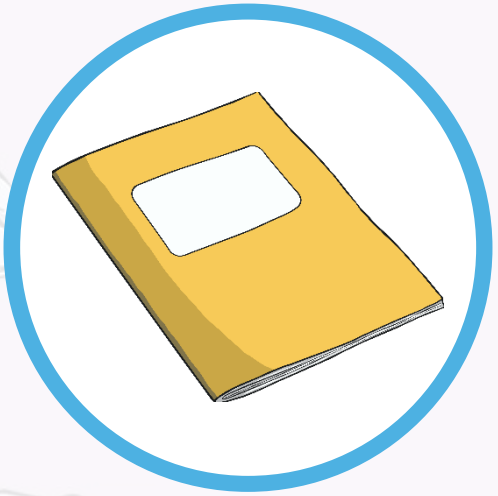
See how adding ‘the’ changes these examples...

an orange



the orange

A book



the book

a teacher



the teacher

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What do we know about using ‘a’ or ‘an’?

- We use ‘**a**’ when the next word starts with a **consonant sound**.
- We use ‘**an**’ when the next word starts with a **vowel sound**.
- Say it aloud - does it sound right?

It was **a** unique painting of **an** honest girl riding **a** unicorn while eating **an** apple.

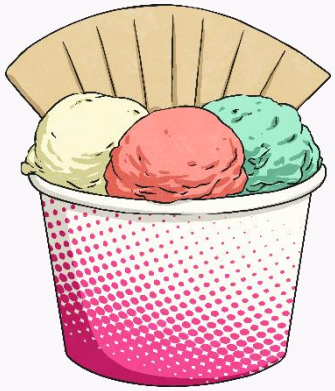


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‘a’ or ‘an’ Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Which is correct?



a ice cream

an ice cream

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‘a’ or ‘an’ Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Which is correct?



a caterpillar

an caterpillar

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‘a’ or ‘an’ Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Which is correct?



Captain Jonas was a one-eyed pirate.

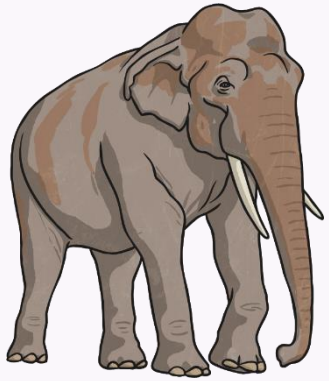
Captain Jonas was an one-eyed pirate.

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‘a’ or ‘an’ Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Which is correct?



There was a enormous elephant at the zoo.

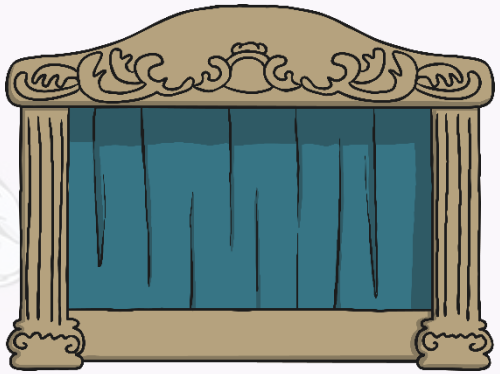
There was an enormous elephant at the zoo.

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‘a’ or ‘an’ Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Which is correct?



The show lasted for a hour.

The show lasted for an hour.

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‘a’ or ‘an’ Quick Quiz

Take a quiz to see if you are an expert!

Which is correct?



The policewoman wore a uniform.

The policewoman wore an uniform.

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