

A Parent's Guide to the Articles 'A' and 'An'

In the Year 3 Programme of Study for English, children are taught about the indefinite article. An article is a word that tells us whether a noun is general (a or an) or specific (the). The definite article is 'the' as this refers to a specific noun, i.e. the cat as opposed to the indefinite article, a cat.

In English, there are two indefinite articles: 'a' and 'an'. We use 'a' before words that start with a consonant sound for example: *a window, a bed, a uniform*, etc. Then, we use 'an' with words that begin with a vowel sound for example: *an owl, an ogre, an hour*, etc.

In this booklet, you will find a range of activities to practise using these articles with your child. Please help your child to develop their understanding of a and an by questioning them as they work. For example:

"Why have you put 'a' before that word?"

You need to make certain that your child is clear that it is because the proceeding word starts with either a consonant or vowel sound.

Many of the activities in this booklet ask your child to spot the mistakes, which will help to support them when they are checking their own writing. Please encourage your child to always read their independent writing back to themselves to check for mistakes with their usage of 'a' or 'an'.