RULE SHEET

a, an, the



Use **a** or **an** for a new person or thing: Ben is in **a** café. Use **the** for the same person or thing again: **The** café is small. Use **the** for the only one: **the** sun, **the** moon, **the** sky.

a or an?

	First sound of the next word	Examples
a	a consonant sound: b, c, d, f, g, k, p, s, t …	**a** dog · **a** pen · **a** big egg
an	a vowel sound: a, e, i, o, u	**an** apple · **an** owl · **an** old bike
Careful!	the sound, not the letter: hour (silent h), uniform (u = **you**)	**an** hour · **a** uniform · **an** umbrella

Examples

- It is **an** egg. **The** egg is very big.
- Ruby is **a** doctor. Omar is **an** engineer.
- **The** sun is hot, and **the** sky is blue.

> **Careful!** Jobs: use **a** or **an**. Sam is **a** vet (not: Sam is vet). Look at the next word: **an** apple, but **a** red apple. No article before names: Leo is from Leeds (not: The Leo).

PRACTICE 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

a or an?

1 Write a or an.

Example: _____ apple → *an*

1. _____ cat
2. _____ elephant
3. _____ orange
4. _____ banana
5. _____ insect
6. _____ pencil
7. _____ umbrella
8. _____ animal
9. _____ tiger
10. _____ octopus

2 Tick a or an.

1. It is _____ horse. ○ a ○ an
2. It is _____ ant. ○ a ○ an
3. It is _____ bus. ○ a ○ an
4. It is _____ igloo. ○ a ○ an
5. It is _____ lemon. ○ a ○ an
6. It is _____ onion. ○ a ○ an