

Grade 2 • Lesson 17: A and An**CLASSICAL ARTICLE USAGE****Language Rule: Using "An" Before Vowel Sounds**

Use "an" before words beginning with vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u).

Saying "an apple" flows naturally from the tongue, avoiding the awkward pause of "a apple."

A ORAL READING & MODEL COPYWORK

Read the model sentences aloud. Copy each model sentence neatly on the guideline:

MODEL 1 (STATEMENT):

The man has an ax.

MODEL 2 (QUESTION):

Have you an apple?

1. _____

2. _____

B SENTENCE COMPOSITION

Write a complete statement or question containing each given phrase:

1. **an eye:** _____

2. **an ear:** _____

3. **an inkstand:** _____

4. **an iron ring:** _____

5. **an ox:** _____

6. **an overcoat:** _____

Lesson 17: Teacher Guide & Master Solutions

ARTICLE USAGE • "AN" WITH VOWEL SOUNDS

Pedagogical Purpose & Classical Foundations: Children discover the euphonic reason for *an*. Originating from Old English *ān* ("one"), English retains the final nasal consonant *-n* before vowel sounds (*an apple*, *an ox*) to prevent hiatus (an awkward vocal glottal catch between vowels). Ensure students speak and hear the smooth acoustic blend before writing.

Section A: Model Oral Reading & Copywork:

- The man has an ax.** (Declarative statement: capitalized *The*, period at the end).
- Have you an apple?** (Interrogative question: auxiliary verb inversion *Have you...*, question mark at the end).

Section B: Sentence Composition Exemplars (Accept equivalent complete sentences):

- an eye* → **The eagle has a keen eye.** / **A speck of dust flew into an eye.**
- an ear* → **The rabbit twitched an ear at the sound.** / **The dog has a brown spot on an ear.**
- an inkstand* → **Grandfather placed an inkstand upon the wooden desk.**
- an iron ring* → **The blacksmith forged an iron ring for the wagon.**
- an ox* → **The sturdy farmer plowed his field with an ox.**
- an overcoat* → **Father wore an overcoat during the chilly morning walk.**

Charlotte Mason Oral & Dictation Drill: Read these three short sentences aloud once and ask the student to repeat and write them from memory:

- "The boy saw an owl in the oak tree."
- "May I borrow an inkstand?"

Verify that every sentence starts with a capital letter, preserves *an* before vowels, and closes with correct punctuation.

Evaluation Criterion	Exemplary (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (1-2)
Article Selection	Correctly pairs <i>an</i> with every initial vowel sound without error.	Pairs <i>an</i> correctly in 5 of 6 composition sentences.	Confuses <i>a</i> and <i>an</i> before vowels; needs oral reinforcement.
Sentence Structure	Every response is a complete thought with subject and predicate.	Responses are complete sentences with minor phrasing awkwardness.	Writes fragments or incomplete sentence stems.
Punctuation & Capitals	100% correct capitalization of first words and correct end marks (. and ?).	1 minor punctuation omission or misplaced capital letter.	Multiple missed capital letters or omitted terminal punctuation.
Penmanship & Neatness	Letters sit neatly on guidelines with uniform spacing and clear ascenders / descenders.	Neat handwriting with slight baseline or spacing irregularities.	Uneven letter sizing or floating text off guidelines.