

Grade 2 • Lesson 18: Choosing "A" or "An"**CONSONANT & VOWEL SOUNDS**

Language Rule: Listen to the Opening Sound

Use "a" before consonant sounds. Use "an" before vowel sounds.

Careful listening is key: in *hour*, the *h* is silent, making its first sound a vowel (*an hour*)!

A WRITING "A" OR "AN" BEFORE EACH WORD

Write **a** or **an** on the line before each word:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. _____ hat | 6. _____ island | 11. _____ echo |
| 2. _____ egg | 7. _____ house | 12. _____ elbow |
| 3. _____ owl | 8. _____ uncle | 13. _____ ear-ring |
| 4. _____ book | 9. _____ orange | 14. _____ newspaper |
| 5. _____ hour | 10. _____ inch | 15. _____ umbrella |

B SENTENCE WRITING

Choose three phrases from above and write a complete sentence for each:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Lesson 18: Teacher Guide & Master Solutions

PHONICS & ARTICLE DISCRIMINATION

The Sound Principle • Consonant vs. Vowel Sounds: The choice between *a* and *an* is governed entirely by **sound**, not spelling! Highlight the contrast between *hat* / *house* (aspirated /h/ consonant sound → *a hat*, *a house*) and *hour* (silent *h*, beginning with the vowel diphthong /aʊ/ → *an hour*). This is one of the classic phonetic benchmarks in elementary English.

- Section A: Master Article Key (15 Words):**
- **Consonant sound words (use "a"):**
1. **a hat** • 4. **a book** • 7. **a house** • 14. **a newspaper**
 - **Vowel sound words (use "an"):**
2. **an egg** • 3. **an owl** • 5. **an hour** (silent *h*) • 6. **an island**
8. **an uncle** • 9. **an orange** • 10. **an inch** • 11. **an echo**
12. **an elbow** • 13. **an ear-ring** • 15. **an umbrella**

- Section B: Sentence Writing Exemplars (Accept equivalent student sentences):**
1. *an umbrella* → **The little girl carried an umbrella in the autumn rain.**
 2. *an owl* → **An owl perched quietly upon the old fence post.**
 3. *an hour* → **We waited an hour for the carriage to arrive.**
 4. *a newspaper* → **Grandfather reads a newspaper by the fire every evening.**

Phonics Diagnostic & Common Pitfalls:

- **Silent "h" trap:** Children frequently write "*a hour*" because the word starts with the consonant letter *h*. Have the child read aloud: "*a our*" vs. "*an our*" to feel the smooth transition.
- **Hyphenated compound:** Note that *ear-ring* takes *an* because of the initial vowel sound in *ear*.

Evaluation Criterion	Exemplary (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (1-2)
Article Accuracy (Section A)	15/15 correct, including the silent "h" in <i>an hour</i> .	13-14/15 correct with minor slips on 1-2 words.	Fewer than 12 correct; confuses vowel and consonant initial sounds.
Silent "h" Discrimination	Correctly writes <i>an hour</i> and contrasts it with <i>a hat</i> / <i>a house</i> .	Identifies <i>an hour</i> after oral reading prompt.	Persistently applies <i>a</i> to <i>hour</i> based on visual spelling alone.
Sentence Composition	Three original, syntactically complete sentences with correct articles.	Three complete sentences with minor phrasing or spelling flaws.	Writes sentence fragments or misuses chosen articles in context.
Mechanics & Handwriting	Flawless capitalization, correct end periods, and neat alignment on lines.	Legible handwriting; 1 minor capitalization or punctuation slip.	Inconsistent handwriting, missing terminal punctuation.