

Year 3 Grammar:

Using 'A' or 'An'

Learning From Home Activity Booklet

Statutory Requirements	Activity Sheet	Page Number
Children should be taught to use the forms of 'a' or 'an' according to whether the next word begins with a consonant or a vowel (for example, a rock, an open box)	Alfie Ant's Consonants and Vowels	2
	Ant Antics	3
	Alfie's Sentences	4
	Tricky Words	5
	Alfie Ant's Story	6
	A Parent's Guide to the Articles 'A' and 'An'	7



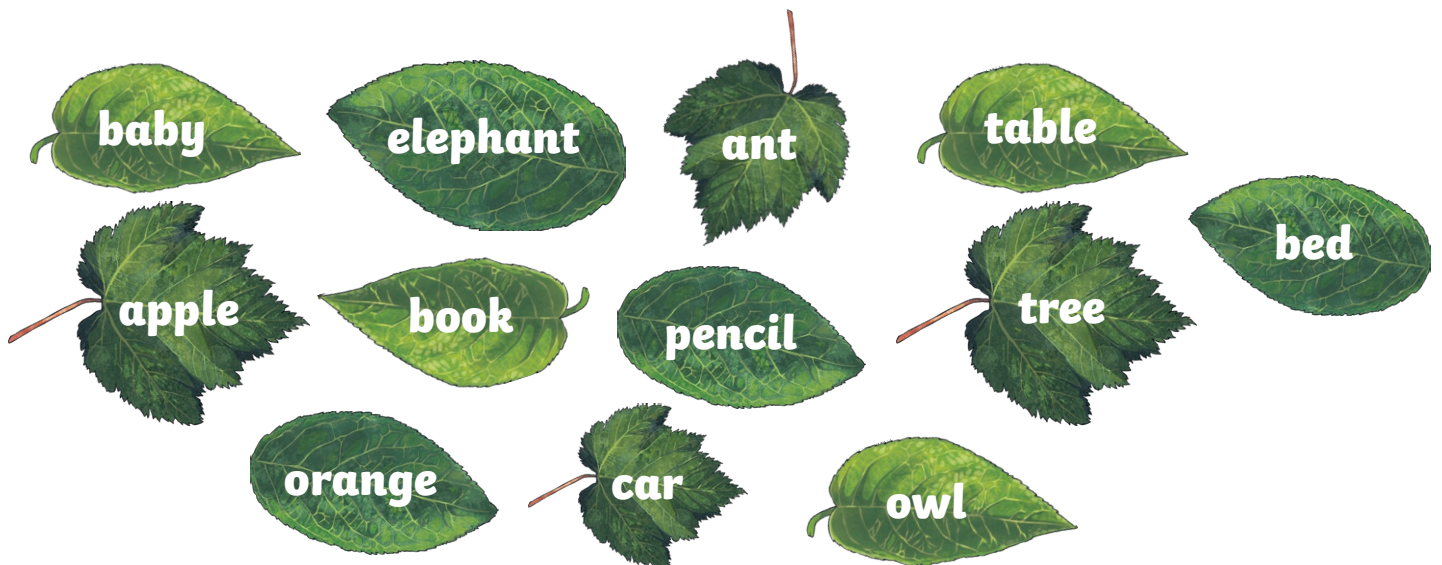
Alfie Ant's Consonants and Vowels

Year 3 Grammar: 'a' or 'an'

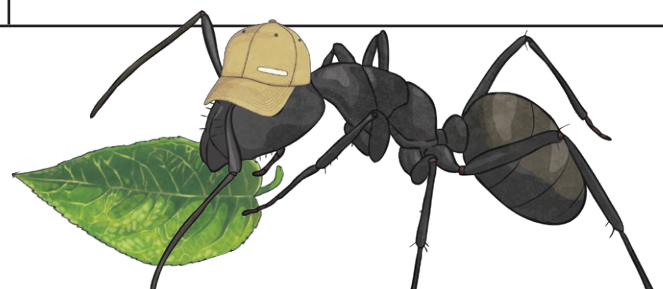
Alfie Ant needs your help! He doesn't know which letters are **vowels** and which letters are **consonants**. Look at the alphabet below. Shade the **consonants** in **red** and the **vowels** in **blue**.

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

Well done! Now, can you sort the words below into two columns: words that start with a **vowel** sound and words that start with a **consonant** sound.



Start with a vowel	Start with a consonant



Ant Antics

Year 3 Grammar: 'a' or 'an'

Alfie Ant has a challenge for you. Look at the pictures below. You must insert either 'a' or 'an' in each space so that the sentences make sense! Be careful as some are very tricky.

Example:



It's _____ apple.

It's _____ juicy apple.



It's _____ owl.

It's _____ wise owl.



It's _____ bed.

It's _____ old bed.



It's _____ octopus.

It's _____ big octopus.



It's _____ pencil.

It's _____ purple pencil.



It's _____ onion.

It's _____ huge onion.



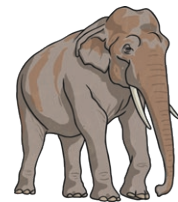
It's _____ door.

It's _____ open door.



It's _____ monster.

It's _____ blue monster.



It's _____ elephant.

It's _____ angry elephant.



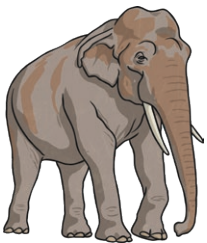
Alfie's Sentences

Year 3 Grammar: 'a' or 'an'

Alfie Ant has written some sentences but he isn't sure whether he has to use 'a' or 'an'. Can you help him by circling the right one in each sentence?

1. On a branch, sat **a / an** wise, old owl.
2. Luke kicked **a / an** orange ball into the air.
3. Through her telescope, Tia saw **a / an** old man on the moon.
4. **A / An** ambulance rushed along the street.
5. The building had **a / an** emergency exit in case of a fire.
6. Martin ate **a / an** delicious apple.
7. Patrick had **a / an** multicoloured pencil.
8. The singer gave **a / an** interview on live TV.

Challenge: Now try and write a sentence about each picture below and include 'a' or 'an'.



elephant



dragon



Tricky Words

Year 3 Grammar: 'a' or 'an'

Most of the time, we add 'a' before words that start with consonants and 'an' before words that start with a vowel. However, which would you use in this sentence?

The boy had **a / an** unique talent.

In this sentence the article used should be 'a' as the 'u' in unique is making the consonant sound /y/. If the first letter of a word makes a consonant sound, you place 'a' before it but, if the first letter of a word makes a vowel sound, you place 'an' before the word.

Have a go at the sentences below. Should it be '**a**' or '**an**'? Circle the correct answer

1. I arrived **a / an** hour early for the party.
2. The story took place in **a / an** universe far from ours.
3. The police officer wore **a / an** uniform.
4. In the magical forest, Betty saw **a / an** unicorn.
5. Pinocchio wasn't always **a / an** honest boy.
6. On holiday, we needed **a / an** universal adaptor for the plug.
7. They were looking for **a / an** heir to the throne.



Alfie Ant's Story

Year 3 Grammar: 'a' or 'an'

Here is a story about Alfie Ant and a very long journey that he went on. However, there are many mistakes when using the articles 'a' or 'an'. See if you can spot the mistakes in the story and change them.

Circle the mistakes and write the correct article above.

There once was a ant called Alfie, who liked to eat food. One day, whilst looking for food, he went through a open door and entered an supermarket. What an lucky ant he was! Quickly, he began to have an taste of everything he could find. He ate a orange, a apple, an lettuce, an egg and a avocado. He had an small nibble of each item but he didn't feel satisfied. Next, he went along a aisle with sweets and chocolate. On one shelf, he saw an unique chocolate bear which he had to try, but as he began to climb onto the shelf something caught his eye. Further along, he saw a enormous doughnut with sweet, sticky icing. He licked his lips and headed in an new direction. He climbed onto an sweet bed of blue icing with an coating of sugary sprinkles on top. He nibbled, licked, pecked, gnawed, chewed, and slurped up all the icing until there wasn't an sprinkle of it left. Finally, with an bulging tummy, he went to sleep right there on the supermarket shelf.



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'.

Year 3 Grammar: Using 'A' or 'An' Answers

page 2. Alfie Ant's 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

Start with a consonant	Start with a vowel
baby car book pencil tree table bed	apple orange elephant ant owl

page 3. Ant antics.

It's an apple.
It's a juicy apple

It's an octopus.
It's a big octopus

It's a door.
It's an open door.

It's an owl.
It's a wise owl.

It's a pencil.
It's a purple pencil.

It's a monster.
It's a blue monster.

It's a bed.
It's an old bed.

It's an onion.
It's a huge onion.

It's an elephant.
It's an angry elephant.

Year 3 Grammar: Using 'A' or 'An' Answers

page 4. Alfie's Sentences.

1. On a branch, sat **a** wise, old owl.
2. Luke kicked **an** orange ball into the air.
3. Through her telescope, Tia saw **an** old man on the moon.
4. **An** ambulance rushed along the street.
5. The building had **an** emergency exit in case of a fire.
6. Martin ate **a** delicious apple.
7. Patrick had **a** multicoloured pencil.
8. The singer gave **an** interview on live TV.

page 5. Tricky Words.

1. I arrived **an** hour early for the party.
2. The story took place in **a** universe far from ours.
3. The police officer wore **a** uniform.
4. In the magical forest, Betty saw **a** unicorn.
5. Pinocchio wasn't always **an** honest boy.
6. On holiday, we needed **a** universal adaptor for the plug.
7. They were looking for **an** heir to the throne.

Year 3 Grammar: Using 'A' or 'An' Answers

page 6. Alfie Ant's Story.

There once was an ant called Alfie, who liked to eat food. One day, whilst looking for food, he went through an open door and entered a supermarket. What a lucky ant he was! Quickly, he began to have a taste of everything he could find. He ate an orange, an apple, a lettuce, an egg and an avocado. He had a small nibble of each item but he didn't feel satisfied. Next, he went along an aisle with sweets and chocolate. On one shelf, he saw a unique chocolate bear which he had to try, but as he began to climb onto the shelf something caught his eye. Further along, he saw an enormous doughnut with sweet, sticky icing. He licked his lips and headed in a new direction. He climbed onto a sweet bed of blue icing with a coating of sugary sprinkles on top. He nibbled, licked, pecked, gnawed, chewed, and slurped up all the icing until there wasn't a sprinkle of it left. Finally, with a bulging tummy, he went to sleep right there on the supermarket shelf.