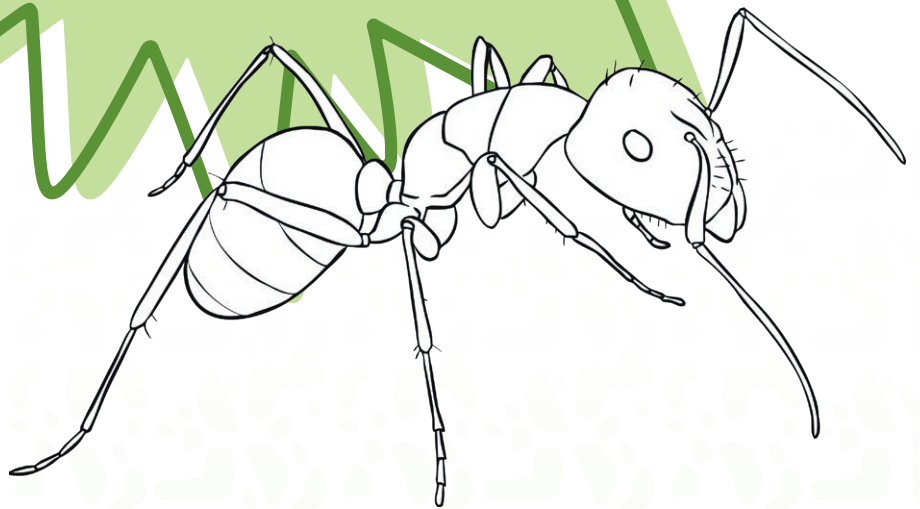


# Using 'A' or 'An' Activity Booklet



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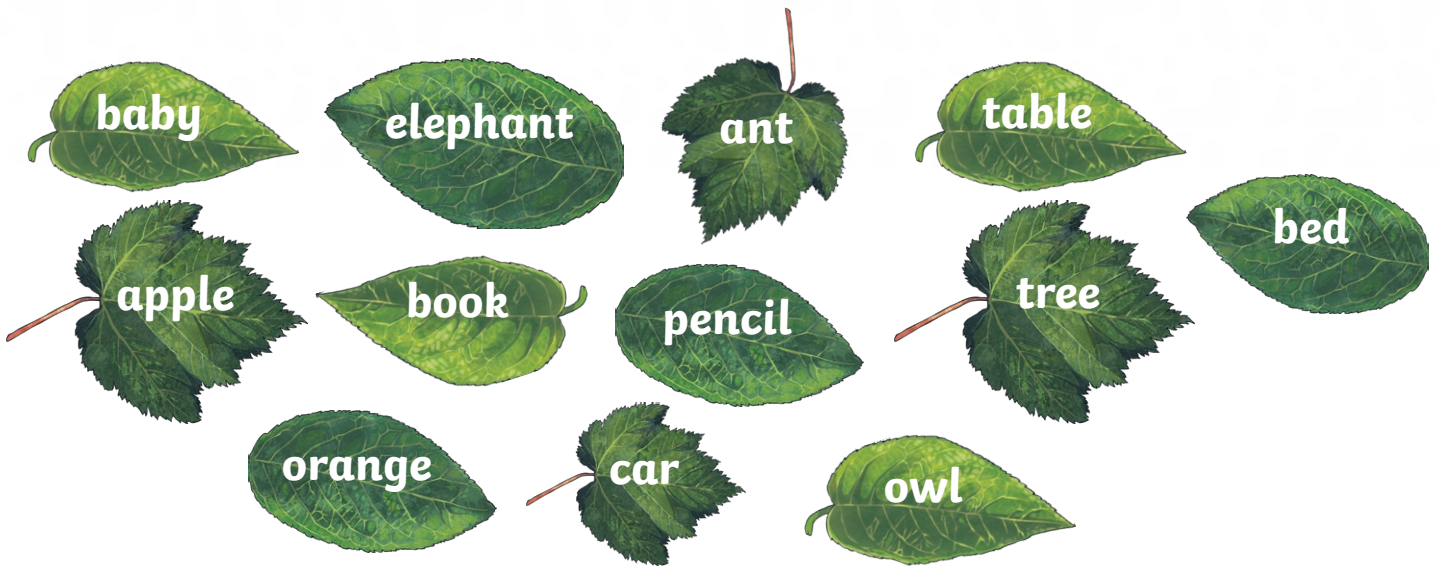
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# Alfie Ant's Consonants and Vowels

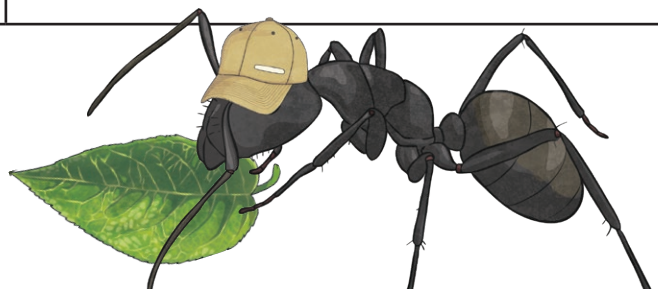
Alfie Ant needs your help! He doesn't know which letters are **vowels** and which letters are **consonants**. Look at the alphabet below. Shade the **consonants** in **red** and the **vowels** in **blue**.

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

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. Remember 'a' goes before a word that starts with a **vowel** and 'an' goes before a word that starts with a **consonant**.

**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.



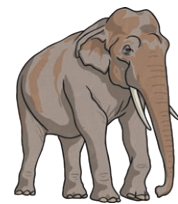
It's \_\_\_\_\_ door.

It's \_\_\_\_\_ open door.



It's \_\_\_\_\_ monster.

It's \_\_\_\_\_ blue monster.



It's \_\_\_\_\_ elephant.

It's \_\_\_\_\_ angry elephant.

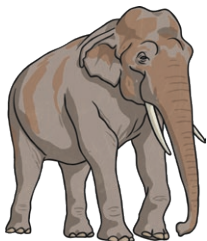


# Alfie's Sentences

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

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

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. 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?'

It is important that you make sure your child is secure in their understanding of how and when to use 'a' and 'an'.

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'.

# Answers

## 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<br>car<br>book<br>pencil<br>tree<br>table<br>bed | apple<br>orange<br>elephant<br>ant<br>owl |

## 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.

## Alfie's Sentences.

1. On a branch, sat **a** wise, old owl.
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6. Martin ate **a** delicious apple.
7. Patrick had **a** multicoloured pencil.
8. The singer gave **an** interview on live TV.

## Tricky Words.

1. I arrived **an** hour early for the party.
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4. In the magical forest, Betty saw **a** unicorn.
5. Pinocchio wasn't always **an** honest boy.
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## Alfie Ant's Story.

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We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.



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