

INDEFINITE ARTICLES

Use the indefinite article (**a**) when the noun that follows begins with a **consonant or consonant sound**.

Examples:

a picture

*("p" is a **consonant**)*

a U.S. citizen

*("U" sounds like "you" – a **consonant sound**)*

a European style

*(the vowel has a **consonant sound**)*

Use the indefinite article (**an**) when the noun that follows begins with a **vowel or vowel sound**.

Examples:

an earring

*("e" is a **vowel**)*

an hour

*(the "h" is silent; the first sound is a **vowel sound**)*

an NEA member

*("N" sounds like "en" – a **vowel sound**)*