

"a" or "an"

General Principle

If a word begins with a consonant, then we use "a" before it.

Examples... a dog a cat a book

If a word begins with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u), then we use "an" before it.

Examples... an egg an eye, an ice-cream

However, if the word begins with a consonant but it sounds like a vowel, then we use "an".

Example... an hour The h in hour is silent so the word "hour" sounds like it begins with a vowel.

In the same way, if a word begins with a vowel but it sounds like a consonant, we use "a".

Example... a university The u in university sounds like the letter y so we use "a", **not** "an".

Write "a" or "an" in front of the following words.

___ bicycle	___ car	___ umbrella	___ taxi
___ apple	___ nurse	___ half-hour	___ hour
___ knee	___ island	___ flower	___ x-ray
___ school	___ university	___ orchestra	___ house
___ orange	___ knife	___ envelope	___ tomato