

The Choice of A or AN

Use A before:	Use AN before:
Nouns or adjectives beginning with a consonant: <i>Ex: a fire, a book, a zoo, a dog</i>	Nouns or adjective beginning with a vowel: <i>Ex: an American, an edge, an apple</i>
Nouns or adjectives beginning with the vowel [u], when it sounds like [ju]: <i>Ex: a university, a united front</i>	Nouns or adjectives beginning with the vowel u, when it does not sound like [ju] <i>Ex: an update, an unusual problem</i>
Nouns or adjectives beginning with the consonant [h], when it is aspirated: <i>Ex: a helper, a hostage</i>	Nouns or adjectives beginning with the consonant [h], when it is silent: <i>Ex: an hour, an honest politician</i>