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| **Grammar Masters: Teacher’s Notes**  **Topic: A or An** |
| ‘A’ or ‘An’ are words that are called articles, or determiners. They are indefinite determiners, or general determiners. They refer to a general object or thing, and so commonly come before a noun.  ‘A’ will be used before words that start with a consonant sound for example: a dog, a pencil and a girl.  ‘An’ will be used before words that start with a vowel sound for example: an apple, an umbrella and an umpire.  There are words that start with a consonant but use a vowel sound at the beginning, such as ‘hour.’ This word would need ‘an’ before it.  Likewise there are words that start with a vowel but use a consonant sound, such as ‘European’ and ‘university.’ For these words you would put ‘a’ before them. |

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