

S.S.L.C. SECOND LANGUAGE- ENGLISH- GRAMMAR SECTION

INDIRECT SPEECH (REPORTED SPEECH)

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ARTICLES

‘a’, ‘an’, and ‘the’ are called the Articles. ‘a’ and ‘an’ are the Indefinite articles and ‘the’ is the definite article.

A. Indefinite Article : ‘a’ or ‘an’ is used before a singular noun to mean one, any one, or one of that group. ‘a’ or ‘an’ is used when neither the speaker nor the listener knows the subject.

I want a pencil. (one pencil)

She saw a cow. (one belonging to the group of cows)

He bought an egg. (one egg)

There is a car in front of my house. (one or one of that kind)

Mr. Gunapal is a member of this committee (one among many)

He earns Rs.65000 a month. (per one month)

When should we use ‘an’?

‘an’ is used before a singular noun **beginning with a vowel sound**, meaning one, one of that class, one among many etc.

She bought an apple. (one)

There is an old woman in his car. (one)

Please bring an empty bottle. (one)

She bought an F.M.radio. (one)

Mr. Deepak is an M.L.A. (one among many)

He thought of an idea. (one)

She had to undergo an operation. (one)

A car has four wheels. (one of that group, all cars)

A smart phone is a must today. (one of that kind)

There is an elephant in this temple. (one elephant)

A member should attend the election and vote personally. (all belonging to that group)

A year has 365 days. (one)

He is an N.C.C. cadet. (one)

She presented me an H.M.T. watch. (one)

Dr. Sandeep advised me an x-ray taken. (one)

You have to eat an egg every day. (one)

Aryabhata is an Indian satellite. (one)

He threw an apple at her. (one)

An eagle flies very high. (one of that kind)

In all the above sentences we have used ‘an’ because the next word begins with a vowel sound. In the word ‘H.M.T. watch’, the letter H is pronounced with a vowel ‘e’ as in ‘eitch’.

Similarly, in ‘N.C.C.’ the letter ‘N’ is pronounced with a vowel ‘e’ as in ‘en’.

It should be noted that in the English alphabet the letters *a, e, i, o, u* are pronounced with a vowel sound.

Please don’t go for the ‘*a e i o u*’ formula. Sometimes this formula may mislead you. We should check the initial sound and if it is a vowel, use ‘an’. Look at the following:

My Professor isEuropean. (a/an)

The word 'European' begins with the letter 'E'. If we follow the formula 'a,e,i,o,u' we may tend to use 'an'. But, note the pronunciation. The word 'European' is pronounced with a consonant sound 'yu' and hence it takes the article 'a'.

My Professor is a European. My English teacher is a European.

France is a European country. French is a European language.

The letter 'u' in the following words is pronounced with a consonant sound 'yu'. So, they take the article 'a'.

a unique opportunity, a union leader, a university, a useful suggestion, a 'U' turn, a utensil, a united effort, a U.K. company, a U.S.S.R. satellite, a university professor, a useful suggestion, a universal truth,

The word 'one' begins with the letter 'o', but the word 'one' is pronounced as 'won' with a consonant sound 'wa', and it takes the article 'a'.

I saw a one legged beggar.

They presented a one act play last evening.

There is a one eyed bird in the cage.

You will receive a onetime password soon.

Look at the following sentences and note why 'an' is used there.

an unoccupied room, an unidentified object, an unofficial visit, an unexpected turn, an uneven surface, an urgent message, an unfamiliar face, an unaided school, an uproar, an H.I.V. patient, an S.T.D. call, an unsigned paper, an S.I., an M.P., an N.O.C., an L shaped building, an M.A., an R.S.S. camp, an M.B.B.S., an F.I.R.,

All the above words begin with a vowel sound.

1. Mr. Reddy is a Member of the Parliament. (One among many)
2. Mr. Reddy is an M.P. (one among many)

In the first sentence we have used 'a' because the next word 'member' begins with a consonant sound. In the second sentence we have used 'an' because the next word 'M.P.' begins with a vowel sound 'em'.

Let us practise:

1.elephant has two large ears. (an)
2. He decided to buildmagnificent house. (a)
3. Swami sawimage moving behind the curtains. (an)
4. The freedom fighters sentnotice to the Police Officer. (a)
5. The leaders signedM.O.U. (an)
6. My uncle isS.I. in Kerala. (an)
7.apple a day keeps us healthy. (An)
8. This gentleman isR.B.I. staff. (an)
9. The C.E.O of this company isAmerican. (an)

10. Aryabhata isIndian Satellite. (an)

11. You have omitted 's' in writing my name. (an)

12. I wantextra cup of coffee. (an)

13. I request you to usecomputer. (a)

14. The Hospital has purchasedX-ray machine fromAmerican company. (an, an)

15. There isFair Price shop just in front of the Bus Stand. (a)

16. Takeslice of bread and give it to the dog. (a)

17. Every nation should strive to haveexperienced and strong army. (an)

18. 'Romeo and Juliet' isinteresting play by Shakespeare. (an)

19. Adddrop of this acid. (a)

20. It wasunexpected turn in the story.(an)

21. There isfly in your cup of tea. (a)

22. The Doctor suggestedimmediate surgery. (an)

23. He hashandkerchief in his pocket. (a)

24. We have cow in our house. It isuseful animal. (a, a)

25. ISRO has decided to complete this project withinyear. (a)

(cont)