

a/an, plurals – singular and plural forms

A/AN & PLURALS IN ENGLISH

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REGULAR PLURAL

SINGULAR

a student
an apple

a bus
a box

a baby
a country

a day
a toy

a shelf
a wife

PLURAL

students
apples

buses
boxes

babies
countries

days
toys

shelves
wives

SPELLING

➤ general rule
add **-s**

➤ after **-s, -ch, -sh, -x**
add **-es**

➤ after consonant + **-y**
delete **-y** and add **-ies**

➤ after **-ay, -ey, -oy**
add **-s**

➤ after **-f** or **-fe**
delete **-f** or **-fe** and add **-ves**

A + CONSONANT: a table, a box

AN + VOWEL: an orange, an egg

IRREGULAR PLURAL

SINGULAR

a man
a woman
a child
a foot
a tooth
a fish
a mouse
a sheep

PLURAL

men
women
children
feet
teeth
fish
mice
sheep

USE AN + SILENT H-

an hour (silent h-)

a hat (not silent h-)

USE A + U- (PRONOUNCED [ju:])

an umbrella (pronounced [ʌ] NOT [ju:])

a university (pronounced [ju:])

⚠ DO NOT USE A/AN WITH PLURALS

✗ These are a tables.

✓ These are tables.

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EXERCISE 1. Choose a/an for the following words.

- It's _____ animal.
- I need _____ new bed.
- It's _____ useful machine.
- I'm _____ waiter.
- Do you have _____ umbrella?
- I'm _____ English teacher.
- I need _____ hat.
- Is she _____ student?
- We have _____ ugly duck.
- I need _____ hour.

EXERCISE 2. Write plurals of the following singular words.

EXAMPLE: A nice sofa ⇒ nice SOFAS

- a university ⇒ _____
- a sandwich ⇒ _____
- a street ⇒ _____
- a rich man ⇒ rich _____
- one foot ⇒ two _____
- a dirty bag ⇒ dirty _____
- an expensive watch ⇒ expensive _____
- a new phone ⇒ new _____
- a nice photograph ⇒ nice _____
- One glass of wine ⇒ two _____ of wine

EXERCISE 3. Write a/an before the singular words and write the plural forms.

EXAMPLE: EXAMPLE: An olive ⇒ olives

1. _____ bus ⇒ _____
2. _____ nice family ⇒ nice _____
3. _____ Italian child ⇒ Italian _____
4. _____ strong tooth ⇒ strong _____
5. _____ nice dress ⇒ nice _____
6. _____ angry wife ⇒ angry _____
7. _____ uniform ⇒ _____
8. _____ amazing website ⇒ amazing _____
9. _____ elephant ⇒ _____
10. _____ empty library ⇒ empty _____