

Lesson 57: A or An and other Rules

Phonics Rule:

Use “a” before a word that starts with a consonant. When “a” is used alone before a word it has the sound of short ŭ.

Example: a fox, a bat, a zebra.

Use “an” before a word that starts with a vowel.

Example: an apple, an egg, an itch, an owl, an umbrella.

Also use “an” before a word that starts with a silent h. Example: an honest man.

Directions: Fill in the blank with either (a) or (an).

_____ artist	_____ jump rope	_____ ant
_____ cap	_____ dog	_____ sock
_____ uncle	_____ inn	_____ nail
_____ eagle	_____ Easter egg	_____ baby
_____ orbit	_____ lake	_____ gift
_____ pickle	_____ ounce	_____ mailbox
_____ hot dog	_____ fan	_____ kite
_____ Quiet queen	_____ rose	_____ toy

_____ umbrella	_____ van	_____ wiggly worm
_____ yellow rose	_____ zoo	_____ xylophone
_____ honest man	_____ hour	_____ honorable man

Phonics Rule: When the syllable “a” is at the beginning of a word, pronounce it as “uh”.

Await	around	about	aloof
America	awake	amass	akin
Amiss	avoid	appear	above
Adore	abandon	abide	abode
Aboard	abuse	alike	abyss
Abridged	adrift	adult	abate
Ability	ago	alarm	alive
Arena	asleep	awhile	away
Aware	aside	aglow	amaze
Ashore	ashamed	aflame	afraid
Agree	alarm	alert	alone
Align	announce	abolish	abound

Phonics Rule: The “a” has 4 sounds:

1. Short A as in Adam
2. Long A as in Acorn
3. Uh as in about
4. Ah as in father

A = Ah

Father	wasp	swamp	watch
Wanted	swab	quantity	wad
Watt	ahah	squander	palm
wander			

The Prodigal Son

(A Funny Phonics Rendition of Luke 15:11-31)

Jesus told a story to illustrate the love and forgiveness of GOD the FATHER, and how glad GOD is when someone who has **wandered** away comes back home to Him.

“Once there was **an** honest, loving gentleman who had two sons whom he **adored**. They **abode** with him in his home until one day after the younger son had become an **adult**. The younger son **appeared** at the dinner table and **announced** to his father, ‘I want my share of



your estate now. I don't **want** to **await** your death to get my inheritance. I **want** to get it now while you are still **alive**, and then I want to go far **away** from here.' So his father **agreed** to divide his wealth between his sons.

"A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and went **away** to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living with wild friends. **About** the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. His wild friends all **abandoned** him and he was all **alone**. He was **afraid** that he might die from hunger, so he persuaded a local farmer to hire him. The man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.



"When he finally came to his senses and became **aware** of what he was doing, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my **father** and say, "**Father**, I have sinned **against** both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as **a** hired servant.'"

"So within **an** hour he was returning home to his **father**. And while he was still **a** long way off, his **father**, who was always **watching** for him, saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

²² “But his **father** said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get **a** ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with **a** feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.



“Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your **father** has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’

“The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His **father** came out and begged him, but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do **a** single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even **a** young goat for **a** feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after **squandering** your money on wild living, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’

“His **father** said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

Just as the father was happy over his younger son, so GOD our Heavenly Father is so happy when we decide to return to Him and have faith in Him again.