

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 ũ.

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”.

a/wait	a/round	about	a/loof
A/mer/ic/a	a/wake	a/mass	a/kin
a/miss	a/void	ap/pear	above
a/dore	a/ban/don	a/bide	a/bode
a/board	a/buse	alike	a/byss
a/bridged	a/drift	adult	a/bate
a/bil/it/y	ago	alarm	alive
a/re/na	a/sleep	a/while	away
a/ware	aside	a/glow	amaze
a/shore	a/shamed	a/flame	afraid
a/gree	alarm	alert	alone
a/lign	an/nounce	a/bol/ish	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	quan/ti/ty	wad
watt	ahah	squan/der	palm
wander			

The Prodigal Son

(Adapted from Luke 15:11-31)

Jesus told a story to il/lus/trate the love and for/give/ness of GOD the FATHER, and how glad GOD is when some/one who has wan/dered away comes back home to Him.

“Once there was an honest, loving gen/tle/man 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 in/her/it/ance. 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 be/long/ings 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 **a/ban/doned** him and he was all **alone**. He was **afraid** that he might die from hunger, so he per/sua/ded a local farmer to hire him. The farmer sent the young man into his fields to feed the pigs. He became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him any/thing.



"When he finally came to his senses and became **aware** of what he was doing, he said to him/self, '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 com/pas/sion, he ran to his son, em/braced 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 fat/ten/ing. We must ce/le/brate 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.



“Mean/while, 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 fat/tened 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 re/fused 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 **squan/der/ing** your money on wild living, you ce/le/brate 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 Hea/ven/ly Father is so happy when we decide to return to Him and have faith in Him again.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. When the younger son grew up, what did he ask his father to do?
2. Was that an obedient thing to do or a rebellious thing?
3. How do you think the father felt when the younger son left? How did the father feel when the son returned?
4. Why was the older brother angry when he found out about the party?

PROJECT:

Sometimes we are like the younger son, and we do foolish, rebellious things. Could you go to your Dad, Mom, teacher, and GOD, and apologize for the wrong things that you have done?

Sometimes we are like the father, and other people have done things to hurt us. Could you forgive the people who have hurt you?

The father in in this story gave the son a beautiful robe, shoes, and a ring, and threw him a party. What Act of Random Kindness could you do for the person who hurt you to show that person that you have forgiven him or her?