Sound First Sort

Choose a or an by listening to the first sound.

3.LF.36 "Demonstrate knowledge of the rules of standard English grammar including punctuation, capitalization, sentence formation, and spelling appropriate for third grade. a. Use articles a, an, and the correctly. b. Identify the role of a noun..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

USE A

Use a before a word that begins with a consonant sound. Say the word aloud to check.

a drum

USE AN

Use an before a word that begins with a vowel sound. Listen to the sound, not just the first letter.

an igloo

1 SORT

8 items

Circle A or AN to complete each phrase, then choose two items and explain how their first sounds helped you decide.

1. ____ window — A AN
2. ____ eagle — A AN
3. ____ insect — A AN
4. ____ lantern — A AN
5. ____ basket — A AN
6. ____ onion — A AN
7. ____ turtle — A AN
8. ____ jacket — A AN

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new phrase using a and one new phrase using an. Choose words that are not on this page.

A _____

AN _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence using an before a word that starts with a consonant letter but begins with a vowel sound.

ANSWER KEY # Sound First Sort

GRADE 3 · 3.LF.36

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	___ window	**A**	Window begins with a consonant sound.
2	___ eagle	**AN**	Eagle begins with a vowel sound.
3	___ insect	**AN**	Insect begins with a vowel sound.
4	___ lantern	**A**	Lantern begins with a consonant sound.
5	___ basket	**A**	Basket begins with a consonant sound.
6	___ onion	**AN**	Onion begins with a vowel sound.
7	___ turtle	**A**	Turtle begins with a consonant sound.
8	___ jacket	**A**	Jacket begins with a consonant sound.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **A**: a shell
- **AN**: an acorn

Challenge: We waited an hour for the bus.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify the first sound of each chosen word. In the challenge sample, the h in hour is silent, so hour begins with a vowel sound.