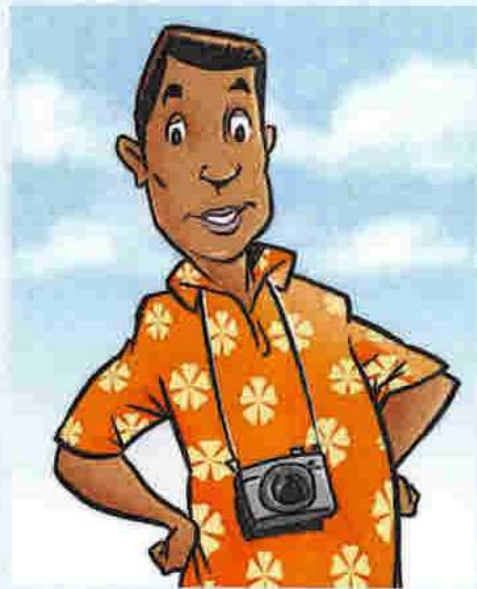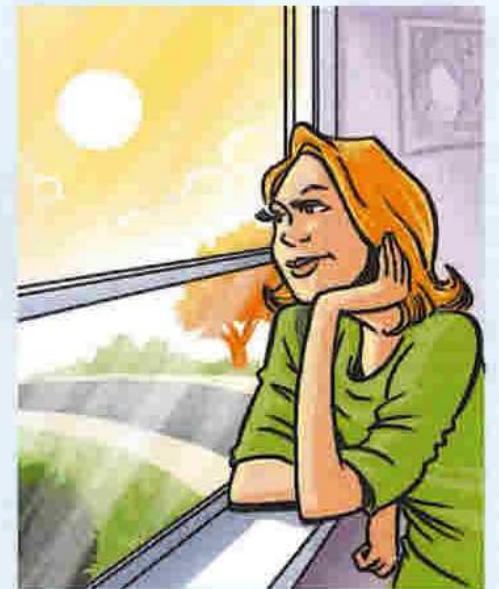# a/an

He has **a** camera.   She's waiting for **a** taxi.   It's **a** beautiful day.

a . . . = one thing or person:

- Rachel works in **a bank**. (*not* in bank)
- Can I ask **a question**? (*not* ask question)
- I don't have **a computer**.
- There's **a woman** at the bus stop.

an (*not* a) before **a/e/i/o/u**:

- Do you want **an apple** or **a banana**?
- I'm going to buy **a hat** and **an umbrella**.
- There was **an interesting** program on TV last night.

also   **an hour** (**h** is not pronounced: an ẖour)
but   **a university** (pronounced *yuniversity*)
       a European country (pronounced *yuropean*)

another (= **an** + **other**) is one word:

- Can I have **another** cup of coffee?

We use **a/an** . . . when we say what a thing or a person is. For example:

- The sun is **a star**.
- Football is **a game**.
- Dallas is **a city in Texas**.
- A mouse is **an animal**. It's **a small animal**.
- Joe is **a very nice person**.

We use **a/an** . . . for jobs, etc.:

- *A:* What do you do?
  B: I'm **a dentist**. (*not* I'm dentist)
- "What does Mark do?" "He's **an engineer**."
- Would you like to be **a teacher**?
- Beethoven was **a composer**.
- Picasso was **a famous painter**.
- Are you **a student**?

I'm **a dentist**.

a bottle / some water (countable/uncountable) → **Units 68–69**   **a/an and the** → **Unit 70**

Exercises

66.1 Write *a* or *an*.

1. __*an*__ old book
2. _____ window
3. _____ horse
4. _____ airport
5. _____ new airport
6. _____ organization
7. _____ university
8. _____ hour
9. _____ economic problem

66.2 What are these things? Choose from the box.

bird	flower	fruit	game	mountain
planet	river	tool	vegetable	musical instrument

1. A duck is __*a bird*__ .
2. A carrot is _____ .
3. Tennis is _____ .
4. A hammer is _____ .
5. Everest is _____ .
6. Saturn is _____ .
7. A banana is _____ .
8. The Amazon is _____ .
9. A rose is _____ .
10. A trumpet is _____ .

66.3 What are their jobs? Choose from the box and complete the sentences.

architect	dentist	electrician	nurse
photographer	sales clerk	taxi driver	

1. __*She's a dentist.*__
2. He's _____
3. She _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. And you? I'm _____

66.4 Write sentences. Choose from the two boxes. Use *a/an* where necessary.

I want to ask you	Rebecca works in		old house	artist
Tom never wears	Jane wants to learn	+	party	question
I can't ride	Mike lives in		office	foreign language
My brother is	Tonight I'm going to		hat	bicycle

1. __*I want to ask you a question.*__
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____