

### FUMC ESL 3-3-2016 Level 3 Lesson

### A/An/One

1. We use A before nouns and noun phrases that begin with a consonant sound. If the noun or noun phrase starts with a vowel letter but begins with a consonant sound, we also use A.

a parrot      a dog      a university      a European      a one-parent family

2. We use AN before words that begin with a vowel sound, including a silent letter "h".

an orange      an Italian      an umbrella      an hour      an honor

3. Also use AN with abbreviations said as individual letters that begin with a, e, f, h, i, l, m, n, o, r, s, or x.

an MP      an FBI agent      an IOU      an i.d.

4. With abbreviations said as words, we follow the standard pattern.

a NATO general      a FIFA official      an OPEC member

5. We use A or AN, not ONE to talk about a particular unspecified person, thing or event.

I really need a cup of coffee.      You never see a police officer in this part of town.

6. We use A or AN, not ONE in number and quantity expressions such as:

twice a year      half an hour      a quarter of an hour      a day or so      fifty cents a piece

7. We use A rather than ONE in the patterns a \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ with possessives.

She's a colleague of mine      That's a friend of Gabe's.      He's a relative of Dave's.

8. Before singular nouns ONE or A/AN may be used. Using ONE adds emphasis

We'll be in America for a year.      We'll be in America for one year.

He weighs a hundred and ninety pounds.      He weighs one hundred and ninety pounds.

9. We use ONE to emphasize we are talking about only one thing or person.

Do you want one sandwich or two?      Are you staying only one night in Rome?

I took one look at her and she started crying.      He only asked one question.

10. We use ONE, not A/AN in the pattern one --other/another.

Close one eye, then the other.      Bees carry pollen from one plant to another.

11. We use ONE in phrases such as one day, one evening, one spring to mean a particular, but unspecified time.

One evening, when I was working late at the office...

Hope to see you again one day.

**Exercise: Correct A/AN or ONE in these sentences. If the sentences are correct, put a check mark beside them.**

1. She won a Olympic medal in the 5000 meter relay.

2. He's an hero to me.

3. The ship sent out a SOS message thirty minutes after hitting the iceberg.

4. Do an U-turn and go back the other direction.

5. I usually go to the gym four times one week.

6. There's more than a way to solve the problem.

7. I phoned the city to complain, but just got passed on from a person to another.
8. The rate of pay is really good here. You can earn over \$15.00 one hour.
9. Maybe we could go skiing one winter.
10. The apples are \$3.00 one pound.
11. Are you hungry? Would you like one piece of cake? Yes, thanks I'll have one.
12. The rules say that there is only one vote per member.
13. She's one good friend of his and will know what to get him for his birthday.
14. The library books are due back in one month.
15. I'm going to London for one day or two.
16. I will either work late tonight or come in early tomorrow, but this report must be finished by tomorrow night a way or another.
17. If you will wait a second I'll get my coat and come along.
18. I want to see the river a last time before I leave.
19. One large number of people had gathered in the square.
20. I've painted a wall already and will do the second tomorrow.
21. Harry came over an evening last week.
22. Dinner should be ready in a hour or so.
23. I'd like to say a thing before I go.

**Make sentences with these idioms.**

stop off (stop there briefly before continuing your journey) EX: I want to stop off at Carol's house on the way home and pick up my homework assignments.

stop by (visit someplace briefly) EX: Why don't you stop by when you're in town and we'll have a cup of coffee.

put a stop to (bring something to an end) EX: I can put a stop to his bad behavior by taking away his car keys.

pit stop (a pause in a journey to take care of necessary things) EX: I could use a pit stop if you don't mind. I think there is a service station with clean restrooms just up the road.

stop at nothing (do anything to get what you want) EX: These gangs will stop at nothing, including murder.

pull out all the stops (make every effort to achieve something) EX: Now that it is getting close to the election, the candidates will pull out all the stops to get their voters to the polls.

stop and smell the roses (take a break and enjoy life) EX: Joe, you are working much too hard. You really should stop and smell the roses from time to time.

stop short of (almost do something, then decide not to) EX: I gave him an earful, but stopped short of firing him.