Articles (a/an/the/zero):
A or An: Indefinite Article Basics

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. ___ apple a day keeps the doctor away.
   a) a
   c) an
   b) the
   d) —

2. She is ___ university student.
   a) a
   c) the
   b) an
   d) —

3. Can I have ___ glass of water, please?
   a) an
   c) —
   b) the
   d) a

4. I need ___ umbrella. It's raining.
   a) a
   c) the
   b) an
   d) —

5. Everyone says she has ___ honest face.
   a) an
   c) the
   b) a
   d) —

6. The exam lasted ___ hour.
   a) the
   c) —
   b) a
   d) an

7. He is ___ European tourist.
   a) an
   c) a
   b) the
   d) —

8. There is ___ elephant in the picture.
   a) a
   c) —
   b) an
   d) the

9. She ate ___ orange for breakfast.
   a) a
   c) an
   b) the
   d) —

10. He wants to be ___ useful member of the team.
    a) a
    c) the
    b) an
    d) —

11. She read ___ interesting book last week. She can't remember the title.
    a) a
    c) —
    b) the
    d) an

12. She found ___ one-dollar bill on the ground.
    a) an   b) a
    c) the   d) —

13. Every student must wear ___ uniform at this school.
    a) an   b) the
    c) a   d) —

14. The trip to Paris was ___ amazing experience.
    a) an   b) a
    c) —   d) the

15. My sister is ___ engineer.
    a) a   b) an
    c) the   d) —

16. He wants to buy ___ old car because they are cheaper.
    a) the   b) a
    c) an   d) —

17. There is ___ big dog in front of that house.
    a) an   b) the
    c) —   d) a

18. I have ___ idea! Let's go to the park.
    a) an   b) the
    c) a   d) —

19. I am ___ big fan of this band.
    a) an   b) a
    c) the   d) —

20. He is ___ FBI agent.
    a) a   b) the
    c) —   d) an

Answers

1. c) an
2. a) a
3. d) a
4. b) an
5. a) an
6. d) an
7. c) a
8. b) an
9. c) an
10. a) a
11. d) an
12. b) a
13. c) a
14. a) an
15. b) an
16. c) an
17. d) a
18. a) an
19. b) a
20. d) an

Explanations

1. "an" (c)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Apple' starts with the vowel sound /æ/.

2. "a" (a)

We use 'a' before words that begin with a consonant sound. 'University' starts with /juː/, which is a consonant sound, even though the letter is 'u'.

3. "a" (d)

We use 'a' before words that begin with a consonant sound. 'Glass' starts with the consonant sound /g/.

4. "an" (b)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Umbrella' starts with the vowel sound /ʌ/.

5. "an" (a)

We use 'an' because the 'h' in 'honest' is silent. The word starts with the vowel sound /ɒ/.

6. "an" (d)

We use 'an' because the 'h' in 'hour' is silent. The word starts with the vowel sound /aʊ/.

7. "a" (c)

We use 'a' because 'European' starts with the consonant sound /juː/, even though the letter is 'E'.

8. "an" (b)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Elephant' starts with the vowel sound /ɛ/.

9. "an" (c)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Orange' starts with the vowel sound /ɒ/.

10. "a" (a)

We use 'a' because 'useful' starts with the consonant sound /juː/, even though the letter is 'u'.

11. "an" (d)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Interesting' starts with the vowel sound /ɪ/.

12. "a" (b)

We use 'a' because 'one' starts with the consonant sound /wʌn/, even though the letter is 'o'.

13. "a" (c)

We use 'a' because 'uniform' starts with the consonant sound /juː/, even though the letter is 'u'.

14. "an" (a)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Amazing' starts with the vowel sound /ə/.

15. "an" (b)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Engineer' starts with the vowel sound /ɛ/.

16. "an" (c)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Old' starts with the vowel sound /əʊ/.

17. "a" (d)

We use 'a' before words that begin with a consonant sound. 'Big' starts with the consonant sound /b/.

18. "an" (a)

We use 'an' before words that begin with a vowel sound. 'Idea' starts with the vowel sound /aɪ/.

19. "a" (b)

We use 'a' before words that begin with a consonant sound. 'Big' starts with the consonant sound /b/.

20. "an" (d)

We use 'an' before abbreviations that begin with a vowel sound. 'FBI' is pronounced /ɛf biː aɪ/, starting with the vowel sound /ɛ/.