

Articles Quiz

by Laura King, MA, MFA, ELS

ANSWER KEY

Directions: Edit the following sentences based on your understanding of §7.3.2.1, Selecting *a* or *an* and §11.11, Correct and Preferred Usage of Common Words and Phrases of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

1. The investigators studied physics and medicine from a/an historical perspective.

ANSWER: The investigators studied physics and medicine from a historical perspective.

Editor's Note: The article *a* is used before the aspirate *h* (eg, a historic occasion) and nonvocalic *y* (eg, a ubiquitous organism) (§11.11, Articles).

2. Most of the employees selected a/an HMO for their health care plan.

ANSWER: Most of the employees selected an HMO for their health care plan.

Editor's Note: Abbreviations and acronyms are preceded by *a* or *an* according to the sound following (eg, a UN resolution, an HMO plan) (§11.11, Articles).

3. The patient had a/an hemoglobin level of 15.6 g/dL.

ANSWER: The patient had a hemoglobin level of 15.6 g/dL.

Editor's Note: The article *a* is used before the aspirate *h* (§11.11, Articles).

4. The physician told the patient that he should have a/an ultrasound examination performed.

ANSWER: The physician told the patient that he should have an ultrasound examination performed.

Editor's Note: Words beginning with vowels are preceded by *a* or *an* according to the sound following (in this case, the *u* sound) (§11.11, Articles).

5. The writer received a/an honorable mention for the essay contest.

ANSWER: The writer received an honorable mention for the essay contest.

Editor's Note: Words beginning with the letter *h* are preceded by *a* or *an* according to the sound following (in this case, the *o* sound) (§11.11, Articles).

6. Reanalysis of a/an NHANES III study contradicted the original findings.

ANSWER: Reanalysis of an NHANES III study contradicted the original findings.

Editor's Note: Abbreviations and acronyms are preceded by a or an according to the sound following (in this case, the e sound) (§11.11, Articles).

7. A/An WHO survey was conducted to study associations between earlier lifetime disorders and the subsequent first onset of later disorders.

ANSWER: A WHO survey was conducted to study associations between earlier lifetime disorders and the subsequent first onset of later disorders.

Editor's Note: Abbreviations and acronyms are preceded by a or an according to the sound following (in this case, either a d sound (W-H-O) or an h sound (WHO)) (§11.11, Articles).

8. At the follow-up visit, the physician diagnosed the patient's condition as a/an obsessive-compulsive disorder.

ANSWER: At the follow-up visit, the physician diagnosed the patient's condition as an obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Editor's Note: Words beginning with vowels are preceded by a or an according to the sound following (in this case, the o sound) (§11.11, Articles).

9. A/An urinary tract infection caused the patient's pain.

ANSWER: A urinary tract infection caused the patient's pain.

Editor's Note: Words beginning with vowels are preceded by a or an according to the sound following (in this case, the y sound) (§11.11, Articles).

10. Scabies is a/an ubiquitous skin disease.

ANSWER: Scabies is a ubiquitous skin disease.

Editor's Note: The article a is used before the aspirate h (eg, a historic occasion) and nonvocalic y (eg, a ubiquitous organism) (§11.11, Articles).