Grammar Explanation

When to use *a/an* or no article

- The indefinite article has two forms: *a* and *an*. Use *an* only when the first word of a noun or noun phrase begins with a vowel sound (e.g., *an idea, an hour*).

- Use the indefinite article (*a* or *an*) with singular nouns that do not refer to someone or something specific.
  
  o Example: *Culture plays an important role in shaping a person.*

- Do not use the indefinite article (*a* or *an*) before non-count or plural nouns.
  
  o Incorrect: *I researched an information about sugar consumption’s effects on a children.*
  
  o Corrected: *I researched information about sugar consumption’s effects on children.*

(For additional information, see the handout: *Count and non-count nouns.*)

Excerpted from: Nouns and Articles: Exercise 4