

English Scientific Writing

practical importance

help rhetorical scientists focus his History non-native Boyle Society emphasized text started improve still plain reader rather industry accepted non-services description boring Sprat now wrote dull get utilize London Robert manuscripts submission easier research authors member Society flourish Thomas top 4th just flourish Thomas top 4th just flourish Thomas top 4th just



# Indefinite Article

We all know that we use **A** before a word that begins with a consonant, and **AN** when the word begins with a vowel. But English spelling and pronunciation are not so easy, so, let's have a look, and listen, to these.

1: the four words that begin with a mute H

**(hour – heir – honour – honest)** so –

**An honest man**

2: pronunciation - words

**Underground** (sounds like it begins with an “A”) so –

**An underground**

**Uniform** (sounds like it begins with a “Y-you”) so –

**A uniform**

3: pronunciation – numbers

**1** (sounds like it begins with a “W”) so –

**A 1-year follow-up**

**8** (sounds like it begins with an “A”) so –

**An 8-week programme**



# University of Catania

## Scientific Writing Resources

# Indefinite Article

4: problems

## Abbreviations

**SARS** (severe acute respiratory syndrome)

Now, if we pronounce this as letters: S-A-R-S.

Then the first letter, “S” sounds like it begins with an “E” so –

**An SARS**

However, if we pronounce this as a word then the first letter, “S” sounds like it begins with an “S” so –

**A SARS**

This is also true of **MRSA** that was pronounced as individual letters in the past, but now is pronounced as a single word.

**It is all about “THE SOUND”**

**A** before words that start with a **consonant** sound

**An** before words that start with a **vowel** sound