** Determiners: how to use and pronounce correctly indefinite and definite articles **

A/AN: indefinite article

We use *a* before nouns beginning with a consonant sound (*a* company, *a* politician), a semivowel sound¹ (*a* euro, *a* university, *a* yacht) or an aspirate h (*a* hotel).

We use *an* before nouns beginning with a vowel sound (*an* accident, *an* entrepreneur, *an* organization, *an* investment) or a silent h^2 (*an* hour).

THE: definite article

We pronounce $/\delta_{\bar{o}}/$ before nouns beginning with a consonant sound (*the* company, *the* politician), a semivowel sound³ (*the* euro; *the* United Kingdom, *the* UK; *the* European Union; *the* United States, *the* US; *the* university, *the* yacht) or an aspirate *h* (*the* hotel). We pronounce $/\delta_{\bar{o}}/(/\delta_{\bar{o}}x)$ using the strong form of the definite article before nouns beginning with a vowel sound (*the* accident, *the* entrepreneur, *the* EU, *the* organization, *the* investment) or a silent h^4 (*the* hour).

³ See footnote no. 1.

1016

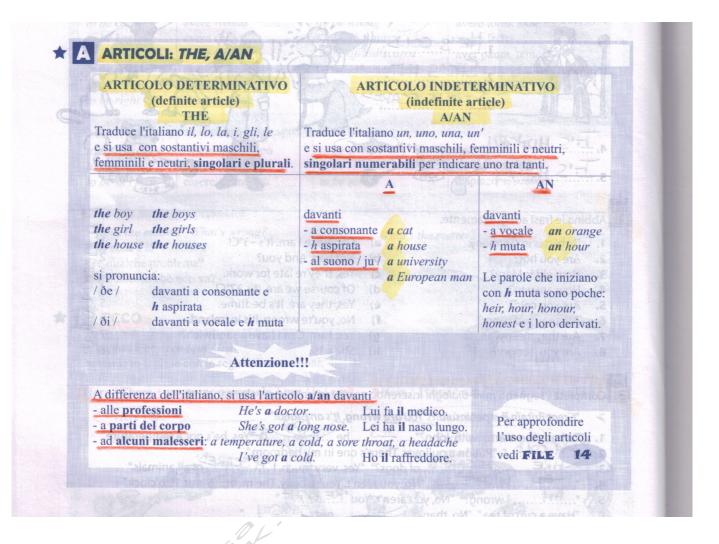
⁴ See footnote no. 2.

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¹ A **semivowel sound** is a speech sound that sounds like a vowel but functions as a consonant, for example **/w/** and **/j/** in the English words wet and yet.

² In English, the only words beginning with a **silent** *h* are the following: *heir*, *heiress*, *honest*, *honour*, *hour*, as well as their derivatives.

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