

A/ An for describing companies and jobs

What is the normal answer to “What do you do?”/ “What’s your job?”?

What about the normal answer to “What kind of company do you work for?”

Which words usually follow “I’m...” and “It’s...” in the answers above?

Brainstorm possible jobs in the boxes below:

I’m a/ He’s a/ She’s a _____	I’m an/ He’s an/ She’s an _____

Put one letter into each of the gaps below to make possible words to add to the table above, using the "a" or "an" to help guess the first letter. Some letters are used more than once.

I'm an _____ccountant
He's an _____rchitect
She's an _____rtist
I'm an _____ditor
He's a _____ank clerk
She's a _____anker
She's a _____ameraman
I'm a _____ashier
He's a _____onsultant
I'm a _____ram school teacher
She's a _____irector
I'm a _____octor
He's an _____ngineer
She's an _____xecutive
I'm a _____ournalist
He's a _____awyer
I'm a _____ecturer
She's a _____anager
He's a _____anny
I'm an _____ffice worker
He's an _____ptician
She's a _____ersonal assistant (= She's a ___A)
I'm a _____hotographer
I'm a _____ilot
He's a _____eceptionist
She's a _____esearch analyst
I'm a _____ales assistant
He's a _____ales rep
She's a _____ecurity guard
He's a _____ervice engineer
He's a _____echnician
She's a _____elephone operator
He's a _____elevision presenter
I'm a _____rainee
He's an _____nderwriter

Hint: The words above are in alphabetical order.

Do the same with these kinds of company:

- It's an _____ advertising company.
It's an _____ aerospace company.
It's an _____ airline.
It's an _____ architecture firm.
It's an _____ automobile company (= a car company).
It's a _____ bank.
It's a _____ camera company.
It's a _____ chemical company.
It's a _____ clothing company (= fashion company).
It's a _____ construction company (= builder's).
It's a _____ cosmetics company.
It's a _____ department store.
It's a _____ drinks company.
It's a _____ drug company (= pharmaceutical company).
It's an _____ electronics company.
It's an _____ engineering company.
It's an _____ entertainment company.
It's a _____ fast food company.
It's a _____ finance company.
It's a _____ food company.
It's a _____ furniture company.
It's a _____ hotel chain.
It's an _____ insurance company.
It's an _____ internet search company.
It's an _____ IT company (= a computer company).
It's a _____ law firm.
It's a _____ logistics company (= delivery company).
It's a _____ mining company (= commodities company).
It's a _____ mobile phone company.
It's a _____ music company.
It's a _____ newspaper.
It's an _____ oil company (= petrochemical company).
It's an _____ online retailer.
It's an _____ outsourcing company.
It's a _____ packaging company.
It's a _____ publishing company.
It's a _____ soft drinks company.
It's a _____ software company.
It's a _____ sportswear company.
It's a _____ stationery company.
It's a _____ supermarket chain.
It's a _____ telecommunications company (= phone company).
It's a _____ toy company.
It's a _____ tyre (= _____ tire) company.
It's a _____ white goods company.

Fill in the first letter of the nationality words below, using the “a” or “an” to help.

- It's an _____merican soft drinks company.
It's an _____ustralian mining company.
It's a _____ritish white goods company.
It's a _____anadian insurance company.
It's a _____hinese computer company.
It's a _____anish electronics company.
It's a _____utch oil company.
It's a _____innish mobile phone company.
It's a _____rench tyre company.
It's a _____erman sports good company.
It's an _____ndian outsourcing company.
It's an _____rish bank.
It's an _____talian fashion company.
It's a _____apanese newspaper.
It's a _____orean airline.
It's a _____alaysian automobile company.
It's a _____ussian aerospace company.
It's a _____panish telecommunications company.
It's a _____wedish furniture company.
It's a _____wiss food company.

What are the names of the countries that those companies come from?

Can you think of any examples of companies which match any of the explanations above?
Think of a company, read the line above that matches that company without saying the company name, and see if your partner can guess which company you are thinking of.

A/ an for describing your company and job meeting people practice

Roleplay meeting people in a trade fair or conference from the beginning to the end of the conversation, pretending that you have the job, type of company, nationality of company or nationality of the card you are given. If you get a country or nationality card, you can pretend that is of your company and/ or of yourself, but make sure you use the nationality and/ or country word in the right way. Make up the other details which aren't on your card.

advertising	airline	architect	auditor
Austria	bank clerk	banker	businessman
cameraman	Canada	cashier	chemical
construction	cram school teacher	Danish	defence
department store	drug (= pharmaceutical)	Dutch	Finland
France	furniture company	German	Indian
insurance	Irish	law	lecturer
mechanic/ service engineer	middle manager	mining (= commodities)	office worker
oil (= petrochemical)	optician	outsourcing	packaging
photographer	receptionist	Russia	security guard
soft drinks	Spain	stationery	Swedish
Swiss	Taiwan	television presenter	tyre (= tire)
UK	underwriter	USA	white goods

Look at the whole list and ask any questions you have.

Make full sentences out of these words, making sure you include "a" or "an" where necessary.

- Austrian
- Indian
- Irish
- Swedish
- advertising
- auditor
- bank clerk
- white goods

Put those words into the gaps below. Different answers are possible, but just use each one once.

It's a _____ company.

It's an _____ company.

I'm a _____.

I'm an _____.

I'm from _____.

I'm _____.

It's a _____ pharmaceutical company.

It's an _____ drinks company.

Find country words above and change them to nationality words.

Find nationality words above and change them to country words.

Find jobs above which seem similar and explain the differences.

A/ An to describe companies and jobs guessing game

Describe a company below until your partner guesses. They are arranged by country.

Useful phrases	It's a/ an (<i>nationality</i>) (<i>kind of company</i>) company.
It's a/an (<i>nationality</i>) company.	It's a/an (<i>kind of company</i>) company.
It's based in...	Its HQ is in...
It's famous for...	Its most famous product is...
In this country, it...	It's the market leader in...

Country				
Adjective/ Nationality				
Companies	Amazon.com Avon Boeing Citigroup Coca Cola Dell DuPont Estee Lauder ExxonMobil FedEx Gap GM Goodyear Google Hershey's Hertz HJ Heinz IBM Mattel Met Life Microsoft Nike Northwest Pfizer Subway Wal-Mart	Asahi Shimbun Bridgestone Canon Dentsu Fast Retailing JAL Kao Kenwood Kikkoman Kirin Mitsubishi UFJ Nissan NTT Pentel Roland Sekisui Shiseido Subaru Tomy Toray	BAE Systems BP Burberry Dunlop Dyson Foster and Partners GlaxoSmithKline Harrods Land Rover Parker Prudential Tesco The Guardian Virgin Atlantic Vodafone	Adidas BASF Continental DHL Grundig Hugo Boss Leica Lufthansa Mercedes Benz Munich Re Nivea SAP Siemens Stabilo T-Mobile
Country				
Adjective/ Nationality				
Companies	Carlsberg Bang and Olufsen LEGO Maersk	Banco Santander Mapfre Seat Telefonica Zara	Adecco Bally Credit Suisse Logitech Nestle Roche	BHP Billiton Commonwealth Bank Foster's Group Quantas

Country				
Adjective/ Nationality				
Companies	AXA BNP Paribas Bic Canal + Carrefour Chanel Danone L'Oreal Michelin Printemps Renault Total	Amoy Cathy Pacific Golden Harvest HSBC Hutchinson - Whampoa South China- Morning Post	Alibaba Cosco Haier Lenovo Ping An Sinopec Tsingtao	Astra Zeneca Electrolux H&M IKEA Tetra Pak Volvo

Country				
Adjective/ Nationality				
Companies	Asiana Hite Kia LG Lotte	Aegon Heineken ING KLM Phillips Royal Dutch Shell TNT	Diadora Fiat Generali Group Gucci Intesa Sanpaolo Pirelli	Blackberry Four Seasons IMAX Labatt's Sun Life

Country				
Adjective/ Nationality				
Companies	Aeroflot Gazprom Sberbank Tupolev	Hindustan Times Infosys Kingfisher Tata	AIB Guinness Ryan Air	Banco Bradesco Petrobras Varig

Country				
Adjective/ Nationality				
Companies	Petronas Proton	Finnair Nokia	Acer Eva Airways	Manila Times San Miguel

Add the country and nationality words to the gaps above. Then check your answers as a class, writing the stress patterns of any which you pronounce incorrectly.