

The consonant j and w page 50

These are the consonant found at the beginning of words such as 'yet' and 'wet' they are known as approximants. The most important thing is to remember about these phonemes is that they are phonetically like vowels but phonologically like consonants (in earlier works on phonology then they were known as semivowels) . From the phonetic point of view the articulation of j is practically the same as that of a front close vowel such as /I /but it is very short . In the same way w is closely similar to /u/ but despite this vowel –like character we use them like consonants. for example ; they only occur before vowel phonemes this is typically consonantal distribution we can show that a word beginning with w or j is treated as beginning with a consonant in the following way : the indefinite article is 'a' before a consonant as in a cat , a dog an before a vowel (as in an apple, an orange). If a word beginning with w,j is preceded by the indefinite article, is a before a consonant (as in a cat ,a dog), and an before a vowel (as in an apple, an orange) . if a word beginning with w or j is preceded by the indefinite article, it is the 'a' form that is found (as in a way, a year)

the words are included in the exam