Indefinite Articles- 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I’m a/ He’s a/ She’s a ______________</th>
<th>I’m an/ He’s an/ She’s an __________</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

I’m an ____________________accountant
He’s an ____________________rchitect
She’s an ____________________rtist
I’m an ____________________editor
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 ____________________ctor
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 ____________________office 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 ____________________ceptionist
She’s a ____________________eresearch 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 ____________________levision 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 ____________ dvertising company.
It's an ______________ aerospace company.
It's an ________________ ircraft firm.
It's an ________________ irlane.
It's an ________________ driculture firm.
It's an ________________ utomobile company (= a car company).
It's a ________________ ank.
It's a ________________ amera company.
It's a ________________ hemical company.
It's a ________________ othing company (= fashion company).
It's a ________________ onstruction company (= builder's).
It's a ________________ osmetics company.
It's a ________________ apartment store.
It's a ________________ rinks company.
It's a ________________ rug company (= pharmaceutical company).
It's an ________________ lectronics company.
It's an ________________ ngering company.
It's an ________________ ertainment company.
It's a ________________ ast food company.
It's a ________________ inance company.
It's a ________________ ood company.
It's a ________________ urniture company.
It's a ________________ etel store.
It's a ________________ nsurance company.
It's an ________________ T company (= a computer company).
It's a ________________ law firm.
It's a ________________ ogistics company (= delivery company).
It's a ________________ mining company (= commodities company).
It's a ________________ oll phone company.
It's a ________________ usic company.
It's a ________________ ews paper.
It's an ________________ il company (= petrochemical company).
It's an ________________ online retailer.
It's an ________________ utsourcing company.
It's a ________________ ackaging company.
It's a ________________ ublishing company.
It's a ________________ oft drinks company.
It's a ________________ oftware company.
It's a ________________ orts wear company.
It's a ________________ tionery company.
It's a ________________upermarket chain.
It's a ________________ elecommunications company (= phone company).
It's a ________________ oy company.
It's a ________________ yre (= ____________ re) company.
It's a ________________ hite goods company.
Fill in the first letter of the nationality words below, using if there is “a” or “an” to help you.

It's an _________________merican soft drinks company.
It's an _______________ustralian mining company.
It's a _______________ritish white goods company.
It's a _______________adian insurance company.
It's a _______________inese computer company.
It's a _______________nish 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 _______________alian 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 _______________nish telecommunications company.
It's a _______________edish furniture company.
It's a _______________iss 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 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.

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

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”.

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

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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 (nationality) (kind of company) company.
- It’s a/an (nationality) (kind of company) 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…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Adjective/Nationality</th>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Companies</th>
<th>Companies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Amazon.com</td>
<td>Asahi Shimbun</td>
<td>BAE Systems</td>
<td>Adidas</td>
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<td>Avon</td>
<td>Bridgestone</td>
<td>BP</td>
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<td>Canon</td>
<td>Burberry</td>
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<td>Citigroup</td>
<td>Dentsu</td>
<td>Dunlop</td>
<td>DHL</td>
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<td>Coca Cola</td>
<td>Fast Retailing</td>
<td>Dyson</td>
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<td>Dell</td>
<td>JAL</td>
<td>Foster and Partners</td>
<td>Hugo Boss</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>DuPont</td>
<td>Kao</td>
<td>GlaxoSmithKline</td>
<td>Leica</td>
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<td>Estee Lauder</td>
<td>Kenwood</td>
<td>Harrods</td>
<td>Lufthansa</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>ExxonMobil</td>
<td>Kikkoman</td>
<td>Land Rover</td>
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<td>Mitsubishi UFJ</td>
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<td>NTT</td>
<td>The Guardian</td>
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<td>Virgin Atlantic</td>
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<td>Bally</td>
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<td>Foster’s Group</td>
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<td>Logitech</td>
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<td>Zara</td>
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</table>
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.

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