

## Lesson 9-Containers-Grammar (part2)

**ENGLISH GRAMMAR**

**COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS**

**Woodward's ENGLISH**

**COUNTABLE NOUNS**  
Have a singular and plural form → a tree two trees  
Can use a *singular* verb or a *plural* verb → The **book** is old.  
The **books** are old.

**UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS**  
Have only one form (no plural) → butter butters  
Always use a singular verb → **Sugar** is sweet.  
Cannot use *a*, *an* or *a number* before them → ~~a~~ rice two rice  
~~a~~ bread two bread

**UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS ARE OFTEN...**

**ABSTRACT IDEAS** (cannot touch)  
love, freedom, education, luck, help, beauty, music, thunder

**MADE OF SMALLER PARTS**  
sugar, rice, salt, sand, flour, dirt, dust, traffic, grass, spaghetti

**SOME FOOD** (cut into small parts)  
bread, fish, cheese, chocolate, meat, bacon, food, ham

**LIQUIDS & GASES**  
water, milk, wine, oil, coffee, rain, soup, air, smoke, blood, juice, fog

**MATERIALS**  
wood, glass, paper, gold, silver, ice, iron, cotton, wool, steel

**BE CAREFUL!** (uncountable in English)  
furniture, advice, work, news, information, luggage, money

[www.grammar.cl](http://www.grammar.cl) [www.woodwardenglish.com](http://www.woodwardenglish.com) [www.vocabulary.cl](http://www.vocabulary.cl)

### Exercise 1

A noun can be *countable* or *uncountable*.

## A

### Countable nouns

For example: (a) **car** (a) **man** (a) **key** (a) **house** (a) **flower** (an) **idea** (an) **accident**

You can use **one/two/three** (etc.) + *countable nouns* (you can *count* them):



one **car**



two **cars**



three **men**



four **houses**

Countable nouns can be *singular* (= one) or *plural* (= two or more):

*singular:*    a **car**    my **car**    the **car** etc.

*plural:*    **cars**    two **cars**    the **cars**    some **cars**    many **cars** etc.

- I've got **a car**.
- There aren't **many cars** in the car park.
- New **cars** are very expensive.

You *cannot* use the singular (**car/house/key** etc.) alone. You need **a/an** (⇒ Unit 64):

- We can't get in without **a key**. (not 'without key')

## B

### Uncountable nouns

For example: **water**    **air**    **rice**    **salt**    **plastic**    **money**    **music**    **tennis**



**water**



**salt**



**money**



**music**

You *cannot* say **one/two/three** (etc.) + these things: ~~one water~~    ~~two musics~~

Uncountable nouns have only *one* form:

**money**    the **money**    my **money**    some **money**    much **money** etc.

- I've got **some money**.
- There isn't **much money** in the box.
- **Money** isn't everything.

You *cannot* use **a/an** + *uncountable nouns*: ~~a money~~    ~~a music~~

But you can say **a piece of ... / a glass of ...** etc. + *uncountable noun*:

<b>a glass of</b> water	<b>a can of</b> oil	<b>a bar of</b> chocolate
<b>a piece of</b> cheese	<b>a bottle of</b> milk	<b>a piece of</b> music
<b>a bowl of</b> rice	<b>a cup of</b> coffee	<b>a game of</b> tennis

## Exercise 2(сделать в hot potatoes-выпадающий список a/an/right)

Some of this sentences are right. Put in a/an where it is necessary.

1. I have not got watch.
2. Do you like cheese?
3. Ann never wears hat
4. Are you looking for job?
5. Mary doesn't eat meat
6. Mary eats apple every day
7. I'm going to party tonight
8. Music is wonderful thing
9. Jamaica is island
10. I don't need key
11. Everybody needs food
12. I've got good idea
13. Can you drive car?
14. Do you want cup of coffee?
15. I don't like coffee without milk
16. Don't go out without umbrella

## Exercise 3

**A**

### a/an and some

**a/an** + *singular countable noun* (car/apple/shoe etc.):

- I need **a** new **car**.
- Would you like **an** **apple**?



an apple

**some** + *plural countable nouns* (cars/apples/shoes etc.):

- I need **some** new **shoes**.
- Would you like **some** **apples**?



some apples

**some** + *uncountable nouns* (water/money/music etc.):

- I need **some** **money**.
- Would you like **some** **cheese**?
- (or Would you like **a piece of** cheese?)



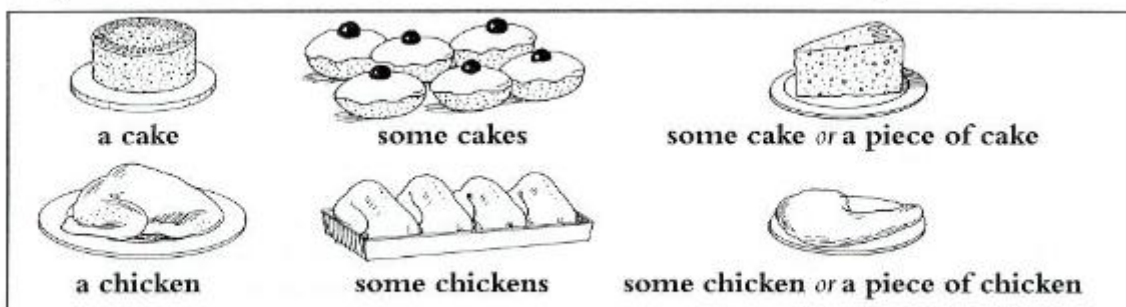
some cheese or  
a piece of cheese

Compare **a** and **some**:

- Linda bought **a** **hat**, **some** **shoes** and **some** **perfume**.
- I read **a** **newspaper**, wrote **some** **letters** and listened to **some** **music**.

**B**

Many nouns are *sometimes* countable and *sometimes* uncountable. For example:



Compare **a paper** (= a newspaper) and **some paper**:

- I want something to read. I'm going to buy **a paper**.
- but ● I want to make a list. I need **some paper** / **a piece of paper**. (*not* 'a paper')

**C**

Be careful with these nouns – they are usually uncountable:

**information   advice   weather   news   bread   hair   furniture   work**

- I need **some information** about hotels in London. (*not* 'informations')
- It's nice **weather** today. (*not* 'a nice weather')
- Listen! I've just had **some good news**. (*not* 'a good news')
- I'm going to buy **some bread**. (*not* 'a bread')
- Sue has got very long **hair**. (*not* 'hairs')
- They've got **some** very nice **furniture** in their house. (*not* 'furnitures')
- 'Do you like your job?' 'Yes, but it's hard **work**.' (*not* 'a hard work')

We say **a job** (*but not* 'a work'):

- I've got **a new job**. (*not* 'a new work')

## Exercise 4

Put in a/an or some

1. I read ... book and listened to ... music
2. I need ... money. I want to buy ... food.
3. We met ... interesting people at the party.
4. I'm going to open... window to get ... fresh air.
5. She didn't eat much for lunch-only ... apple and ... bread.
6. We live in ... big house. There's ... nice garden with ... beautiful trees.
7. I'm going to make a table. First I need ... wood.
8. Listen to me carefully. I'm going to give you ... advice.
9. I want to write a letter. I need... paper and ... pen.

## Exercise 5

Which is right? (то, что идет через слэш, в выпадающий список)

1. Martin has got brown eye/eyes
2. Paula has got short black hair/hairs.
3. The tourist guide gave us some information/informations about the town.
4. We're going to buy some chair/chairs.
5. We're going to buy some new furniture/furnitures.
6. It's difficult to get a work/job at the moment.
7. We had lovely weather/a lovely weather when we were on holiday.



## Exercise 6

Complete the sentence with a/an or some

1. Shall we have ... fish? This restaurant is famous for it
2. Could you bring me ... glass, please?
3. If you need... paper, there is a box on the shelf
4. Would you like ... rice with your chicken?
5. My shier is dry now. Have you got ... iron?
6. Jack bought ... glass to repair the broken windows.
7. Can you buy me ... paper? There's an article I want to read.

## Exercise 7

Choose the correct answer

[http://englishtests.ucoz.com/GrammarTests/A\\_an\\_and\\_some-1-.htm](http://englishtests.ucoz.com/GrammarTests/A_an_and_some-1-.htm)

## Exercise 8

Decide whether these nouns are countable (C) or uncountable (U)

1. The **children** are playing in the garden.
2. I don't like **milk**.
3. I prefer **tea**.
4. **Scientists** say that the environment is threatened by pollution.
5. My mother uses **butter** to prepare cakes.
6. There are a lot of **windows** in our classroom.
7. We need some **glue** to fix this vase.
8. The **waiters** in this restaurant are very professional.
9. My father drinks two big **glasses** of water every morning.
10. The **bread** my mother prepares is delicious.
11. **Drivers** must be careful; the road is slippery.
12. Some **policemen** are organizing road traffic to avoid any accidents.
13. I bought three **bottles** of mineral water for our picnic.
14. I'd like some **juice** please!
15. Successful **candidates** will join the camp later this year.
16. A rise in **oil** prices is inevitable since there is more and more world demand for energy.
17. The **exercises** on this website are interesting.