

2 Countable and uncountable nouns (1)



ROASTED VEGETABLES

Ingredients

one red onion
two white onions
three potatoes
some carrots
olive oil
salt and pepper

1 Countable nouns

Countable nouns are things we can count, for example, *carrot, onion, potato*.

- they can be singular: *an onion*

They often have *a/an, the, this/that* in front of them:

*Is there **a** market here? Where's **the** market? **This** carrot is very sweet.*

- they can be plural: *onions*

They often have *some, the, these/those* in front of them:

*I'd like **some** apples, please. **Those** apples look good. Do you like **apples**?*

2 Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns are things we can't count, for example, *salt, oil, water*.

- they don't usually have a plural form: ~~one oil, two oils~~
- they don't usually have *a/an* in front of them: ~~an oil, a salt~~.

! Uncountable nouns often have *some* in front of them:

~~✗ Can I have **a** milk in my coffee?~~

✓ *Can I have **some** milk in my coffee?*

uncountable noun + singular verb

Petrol **is** expensive.

This advice **is** very useful.

Some common uncountable nouns are:

- food: *bread cheese meat tea coffee sugar*
- materials: *metal wood plastic paper*
- school subjects and languages: *history art music English*
- ideas and feelings: *advice love time education information*
- groups of similar things: *furniture (chairs, tables, sofas) luggage (suitcases, bags) money (euros, pounds, dollars)*

! ✗ *Do you have **some** informations about the castle?*

✓ *Do you have **some** information about the castle?*

Practice

1 Is the noun in *italics* in each sentence countable (C) or uncountable (U)? Write C or U.

- 0 Is there a *bank* near here? C
 1 That *cheese* is delicious.
 2 Do you have *milk* in your coffee? 3 How much *luggage* do you have?
 4 I need to get some *oil* for the car.
 5 Can I have some *potatoes*, please?

2 Are the nouns countable or uncountable?

countable	uncountable
apple	

apple art chair
furniture information
man market sugar

3 Match the pictures with the things on the shopping list.

0 *cheese*
 1
 2
 3
 4
 5

4 steaks
 4 potatoes
 a melon
 bread
 cheese
 oil

4 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct underlined words in the note from Adam to Rachel.

Rachel

Can you buy the food for dinner tonight? Mum and Dad are coming, so can you get (0) a meat / some meat, maybe four nice (1) steak / steaks? We need some (2) potato / potatoes - four large (3) potato / potatoes for baking. Can you buy (4) a bread and a cheese / some bread and cheese, too, and maybe (5) a nice juicy melon / some nice juicy melon to start? Oh, and we need some (6) oil / oils as well. Thanks.

See you later,

Adam

5 Correct the mistakes in the underlined parts of the sentences.

- 0 Do you want a salt in your soup? (some) salt
 1 Education are very important.
 2 Can I have two box of eggs, please?
 3 Can you give me some informations about the trains?
 4 We've got a lot of luggages.
 5 I must get a petrol for the car before we start.
 6 I haven't got a lot of moneys.