

3 Countable and uncountable nouns (2)

Sure, I think there's some coffee in the machine.

Can I have a coffee?

1 Nouns that can be countable or uncountable

Some nouns have a countable meaning and an uncountable meaning:

COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE
	
<i>I'd like three teas, please. (cups of tea)</i>	<i>Tea comes from China and India. (drink)</i>
<i>My uncle has 25 chickens on his farm. (animals)</i>	<i>I love chicken, it's delicious! (food)</i>
<i>Would you like a chocolate? (one sweet)</i>	<i>French chocolate is very good. (food)</i>
<i>Can you buy a paper at the shop? (a newspaper)</i>	<i>Paper is made from wood. (material)</i>
<i>There are four Russians in my class. (people)</i>	<i>Do you speak Russian? (language)</i>

2 Ways of counting uncountable nouns

We 'count' uncountable nouns like this:

UNITS

a piece of cake/cheese
a piece of furniture/luggage/paper
a bit of information
a bar of chocolate
a slice of bread/toast/cake
a loaf of bread

CONTAINERS

a carton of milk/juice
a can/tin of soup
a glass of orange juice
a box of chocolates
a cup of coffee
a bottle of water
a tube of toothpaste

MEASUREMENTS

a litre of milk
half a kilo of sugar
six metres of cotton



We don't use uncountable nouns with *a* or *an*:

X Can I have a toast?

✓ Can I have a slice of toast?

We can say:

Would you like some chocolate? or *Would you like a bar of chocolate?*

When we talk about drinks like tea and coffee we can say:

Would you like some coffee? *Would you like a cup of coffee?* *Would you like a coffee?*

Practice

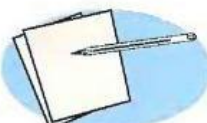
1 Write the correct words from the box under the pictures.



0 a paper



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

a chicken
chicken
a chocolate
chocolate
a coffee
coffee
a paper
paper

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the conversations with *a* or *some*.

- 0 A Would you like chocolate?
B Oh, yes. Can I have that white one?
- 1 A I've got luggage in the car.
B How many bags have you got?
- 2 A What's on at the cinema tonight?
B I'm not sure. I'll buy paper and check.
- 3 A We need sugar.
B OK, a kilo or half a kilo?
- 4 A Can we pay the bill, please?
B Of course, two coffees and tea. That's £4.50.

3 Match the words on the left with the things on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 0 a cup of | A toast |
| 1 a tube of | B milk |
| 2 a bit of | C toothpaste |
| 3 a piece of | D soup |
| 4 a litre of | E coffee |
| 5 a can of | F information |
| 6 a slice of | G paper |

4 **GRAMMAR IN USE** The underlined words are all in the wrong place.

Find and write the correct words

HANNAH Hi, Josie. I'm going to the shops now. Do you want anything?

JOSIE Oh, yes please, just (0) a piece of water, (1) a kilo of soup and (2) a cup of potatoes.

HANNAH That's no problem. I can get those.

JOSIE That's nice of you. Come in and have (3) a slice of coffee before you go.

HANNAH Oh, lovely. Thanks.

JOSIE Would you like (4) a glass of cake, too?

HANNAH No, thanks. I had (5) two tins of chocolate earlier, but can I have (6) a bottle of water with the coffee? I'm really thirsty.

JOSIE Of course. Now, let me find (7) a bar of paper and make a list of the shopping ...