3 Countable and uncountable nouns (2)

1 Nouns that can be countable or uncountable

Some nouns have a countable meaning and an uncountable meaning:

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

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*:
✗ ~~*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**?*

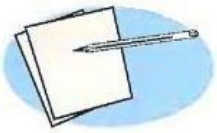
LIVEWORKSHEETS

Practice

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

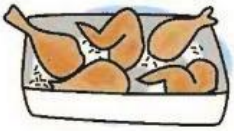
0 ....a paper....

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 ...a..... 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 <u>underlined</u> 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 bottle of ~~a piece of~~ water, (1) <u>a kilo of</u> soup and (2) <u>a cup of</u> potatoes.

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

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

HANNAH Oh, lovely. Thanks.

JOSIE Would you like (4) <u>a glass of</u> cake, too?

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

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS