

Countable and uncountable nouns

1 Countable nouns

Countable nouns are used for things which are separate and can be counted, *one, two, three* etc. We can use articles and numbers with countable nouns: *a baby, four babies*.

Questions	Affirmative	Negative
Are there any apples? How many apples are there?	There are some apples. There are a few apples. There are a lot of apples. There are too many apples.	There aren't any apples. There aren't many apples.

2 Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns are used for things which are a group and can't be counted. We can't use *a/an* or numbers with uncountable nouns: *rice* not *a rice, ten rices*.

Questions	Affirmative	Negative
Is there any butter? How much butter is there?	There is some butter. There is a little butter. There is a lot of butter. There is too much butter.	There isn't any butter. There isn't much butter.

3 Quantifiers

Quantifiers	C and U nouns	C nouns	U nouns
any	✓		
a lot	✓		
some	✓		
many		✓	
too many		✓	
a few		✓	
few		✓	
much			✓
too much			✓
a little			✓
little			✓

Mind the trap!

Watch out for these uncountable nouns:
hair, furniture, accommodation, homework, information, luggage

We say: *The furniture in my mother's house is old.*
not ~~*The furnitures in my mother's house is old.*~~

Some uncountable nouns in English are plural:
trousers, jeans, scissors, clothes.

We say: *She wears trousers to school.*
not ~~*She wears a trousers to school.*~~

Put the nouns in the correct list.

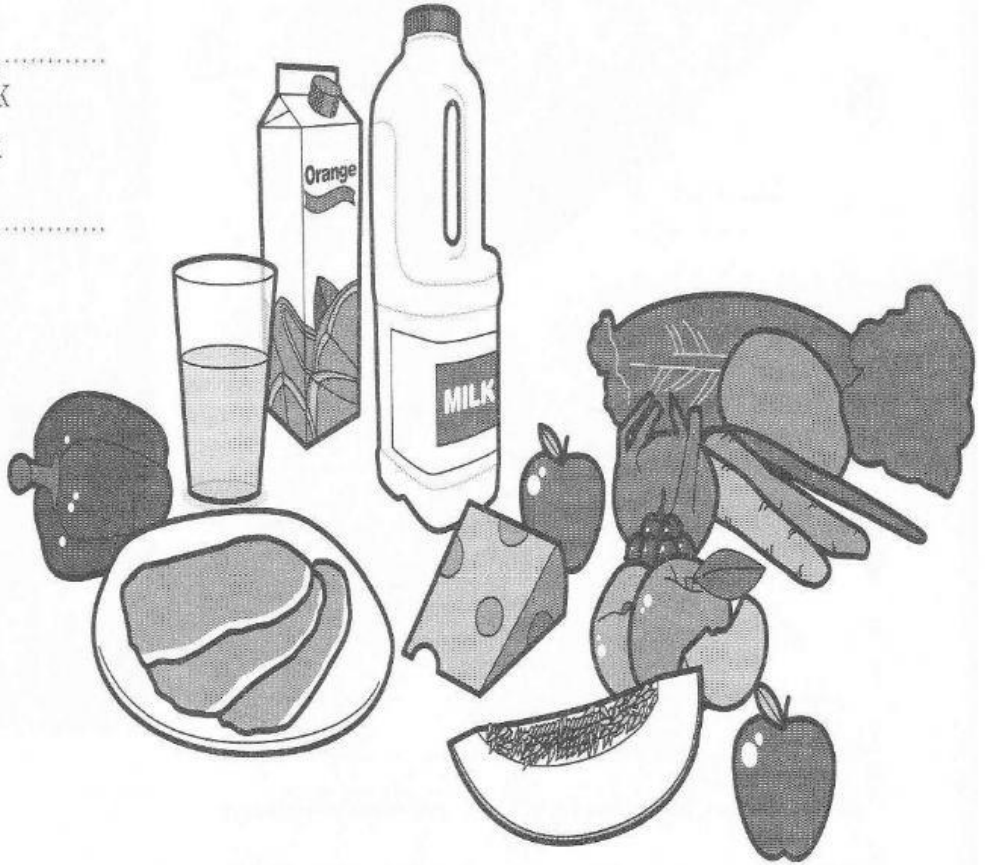
food fruit apple vegetable milk
water red pepper cheese melon
ham fruit juice bottle

Countable

apple

Uncountable

food



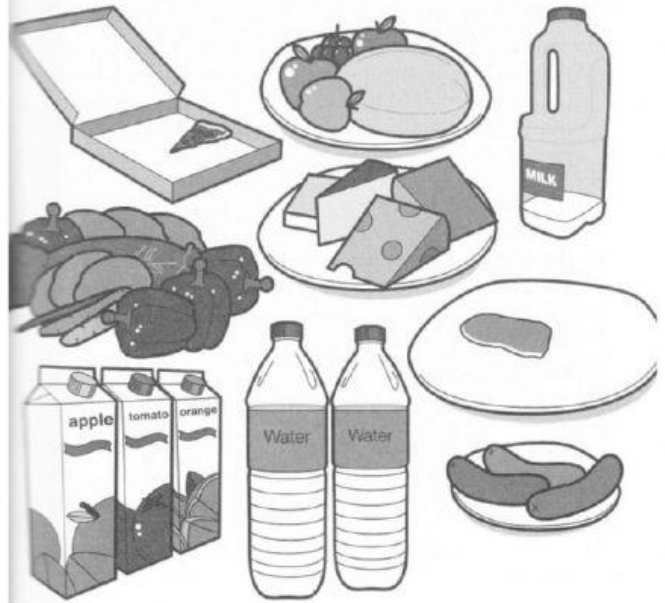
Read the questionnaire and complete the questions.

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

What does your fridge say about you?
Do our questionnaire and find out.

- 1 How much convenience food is there?
☒ some ☐ a lot ☐ too much
- 2 _____ vegetables _____ there?
☐ a few ☐ some ☐ a lot
- 3 _____ fruit _____ there?
☐ a little ☐ some ☐ a lot
- 4 _____ cartons of fruit juice _____ there?
☐ a few ☐ some ☐ too many
- 5 _____ cheese is there?
☐ a little ☐ some ☐ a lot
- 6 _____ milk is there?
☐ a little ☐ some ☐ a lot
- 7 _____ melons _____ ?
☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3
- 8 _____ ham _____ ?
☐ a little ☐ some ☐ a lot
- 9 H_____ bottles of water _____ ?
☐ 1-2 ☐ 3-4 ☐ 5-6
- 10 H_____ sausages _____ ?
☐ a few ☐ a lot ☐ too many
- 11 Is your diet ☐ very healthy? ☐ healthy?
 ☐ unhealthy? ☐ very unhealthy?

Look at Eric's food and tick the correct answers for him in the questionnaire.



Complete the conversation.

- Doctor** Can you tell me about your diet? For example, ¹how much convenience food do you eat?
- Patient** I have two or three pizzas a week and a burger with chips for lunch every day.
- Doctor** That's ²t_____ m_____. What about sweet things? ³H_____ m_____ sugar do you have?
- Patient** I always have four big spoons of sugar in my tea and coffee.
- Doctor** That is ⁴t_____ m_____. Try to have only one spoon. Do you eat a lot of fruit and vegetables?
- Patient** I buy a ⁵f_____ apples and I eat ⁶a l_____ cabbage sometimes.
- Doctor** ⁷H_____ m_____ apples do you eat each week?
- Patient** Two or three.
- Doctor** ⁸H_____ m_____ broccoli do you eat?
- Patient** About a hundred grammes a month.
- Doctor** ⁹H_____ m_____ beer do you drink?
- Patient** I have three or four bottles in the evening when I'm watching TV.
- Doctor** That's between 21 and 28 bottles a week. That's ¹⁰t_____ m_____. I'm afraid you have a very unhealthy diet.
- Patient** What can I do?
- Doctor** Here's ¹¹s_____ diet information. Read it carefully and come and see me again next week.