

### 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>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*:

~~✗ 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

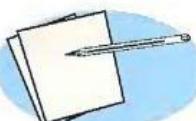
### 1 Write the correct words from the box under the pictures.



0 ..... a paper .....



1 .....



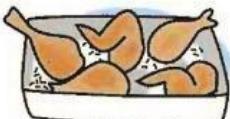
2 .....



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  
1 a tube of  
2 a bit of  
3 a piece of  
4 a litre of  
5 a can of  
6 a slice of

A toast  
B milk  
C toothpaste  
D soup  
E coffee  
F information  
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 bottle 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 ...