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Countable and uncountable nouns with *a/an, some* and *any*

Some nouns are countable. We can count them and they can become plural, for example *car* (plural: *cars*), *book* (plural: *books*) and *friend* (plural: *friends*).

Other nouns are uncountable. We can't count them and they cannot normally become plural, for example *bread*, *meat*, *paper*.

We use *a/an* before singular, countable nouns.

There's a banana on the table.

We use *some* and *any* with uncountable nouns and plural, countable nouns.

- We use *some* in affirmative sentences.
We have some onions at home.
There's some bread in my bag.
- We use *any* in negative sentences and questions.
We don't have any oranges.
There isn't any juice in the fridge.
Are there any eggs?
Do you have any cheese?

When we offer something or ask for something, we use *some*.

Do you want some water?

Can I have some rice?

Sometimes we use *some* and *any* without a noun.

A: *Do we have any potatoes?*

B: *Yes, there are some in the cupboard.*
(*some = some potatoes*)

A: *Can we have lamb for dinner?*

B: *No, we don't have any. (any = any lamb)*

9 Look at the grammar box again. Choose the correct option (a–b) to complete these rules.

- 1 We use *a/an* before:
a countable nouns. b uncountable nouns.
- 2 We use *some* and *any* with:
a singular nouns. b plural nouns and uncountable nouns.
- 3 We normally use *any* with:
a affirmative sentences. b negative sentences and questions.