

a car / some money (countable/uncountable 1)

PRAC-LIST 1 7D
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A noun can be *countable* or *uncountable*.

A

Countable nouns

For example: (a) car (a) man (a) key (a) house (a) flower (an) idea (an) accident

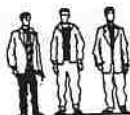
You can use **one/two/three** (etc.) + *countable nouns* (you can count them):



one car



two cars



three men



four houses

Countable nouns can be *singular* (= one) or *plural* (= two or more):

singular: a car my car the car etc.

plural: cars two cars the cars some cars many cars etc.

- I've got **a car**.
- There aren't **many cars** in the car park.
- New **cars** are very expensive.

You *cannot* use the singular (**car/house/key** etc.) alone. You need **a/an** (⇒ Unit 64):

- We can't get in without **a key**. (not 'without key')

B

Uncountable nouns

For example: **water air rice salt plastic money music tennis**



water



salt



money



music

You *cannot* say **one/two/three** (etc.) + these things: ~~one water~~ ~~two musics~~

Uncountable nouns have only *one* form:

money the **money** my **money** some **money** much **money** etc.

- I've got **some money**.
- There isn't **much money** in the box.
- **Money** isn't everything.

You *cannot* use **a/an** + *uncountable nouns*: ~~a money~~ ~~a music~~

But you can say **a piece of ... / a glass of ...** etc. + *uncountable noun*:

a glass of water	a can of oil	a bar of chocolate
a piece of cheese	a bottle of milk	a piece of music
a bowl of rice	a cup of coffee	a game of tennis

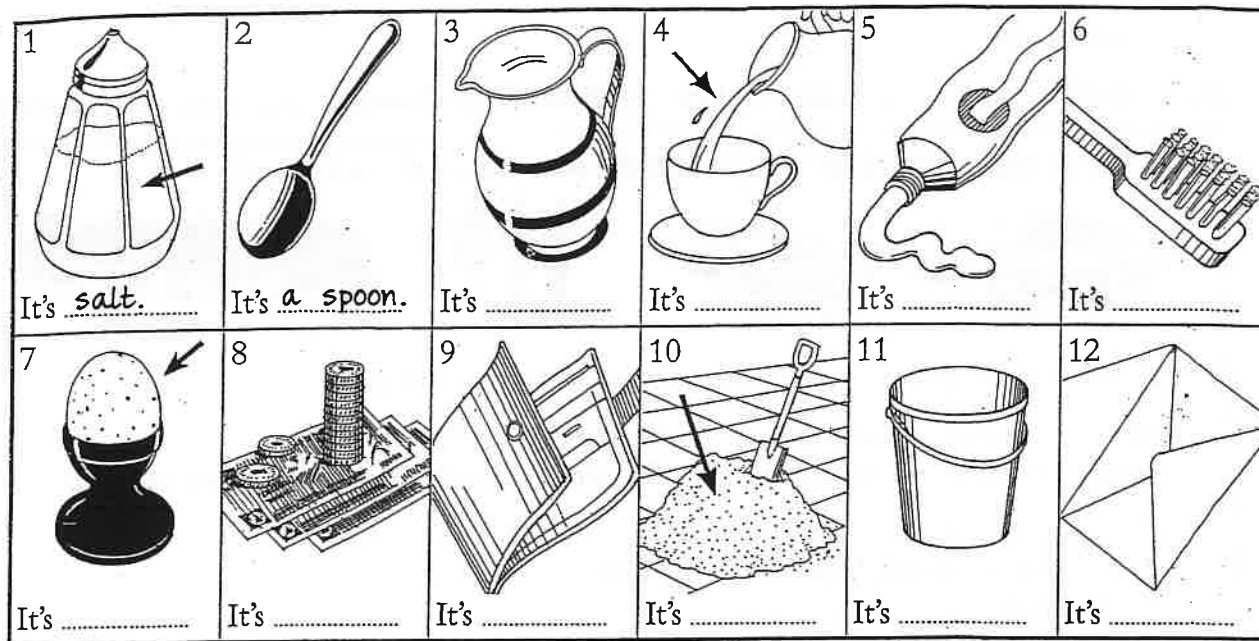
EXERCISES

UNIT
66

66.1

What are these things? Some are countable and some are uncountable. Write **a/an** if necessary. The names of these things are:

bucket envelope milk salt spoon toothpaste
egg jug money sand toothbrush wallet



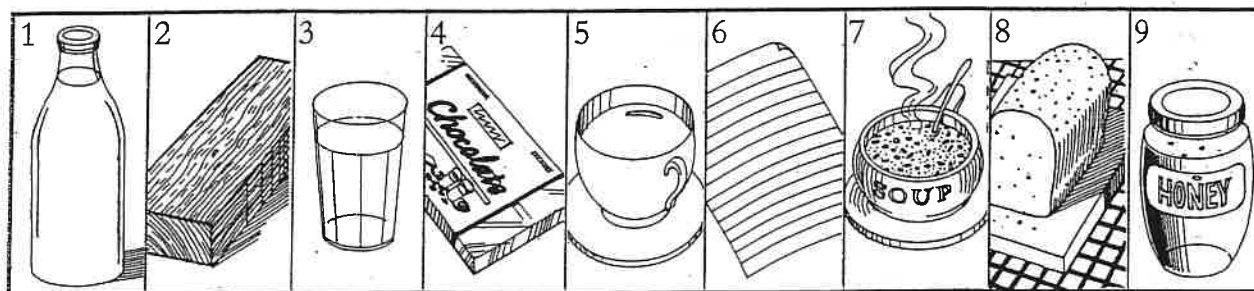
66.2

Some of these sentences are right, but some of them need **a/an**. Put in **a/an** where necessary.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 I haven't got <u>watch</u> . <u>a watch</u> | 9 Jamaica is island. |
| 2 Do you like cheese? <u>OK</u> | 10 I don't need key. |
| 3 Ann never wears hat. | 11 Everybody needs food. |
| 4 Are you looking for job? | 12 I've got good idea. |
| 5 Mary doesn't eat meat. | 13 Can you drive car? |
| 6 Mary eats apple every day. | 14 Do you want cup of coffee? |
| 7 I'm going to party tonight. | 15 I don't like coffee without milk. |
| 8 Music is wonderful thing. | 16 Don't go out without umbrella. |

6.3

What are the things in the pictures? Write **a ... of ...** for each picture. Use the words in the boxes.



bar cup loaf
bottle glass piece
bowl jar piece

bread ~~milk~~ tea
chocolate paper water
honey soup wood

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1 <u>a bottle of milk</u> | 4 | 7 |
| 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 |

A

 a/an and some

a/an + singular countable noun (car/apple/shoe etc.):

- I need **a** new car.
- Would you like **an** apple?



an apple

some + plural countable nouns (cars/apples/shoes etc.):

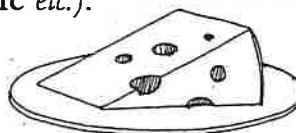
- I need **some** new shoes.
- Would you like **some** apples?



some apples

some + uncountable nouns (water/money/music etc.):

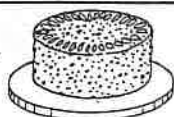
- I need **some** money.
- Would you like **some** cheese?
- (or Would you like **a piece** of cheese?)


some cheese or
a piece of cheese

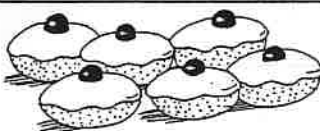
Compare **a** and **some**:

- Linda bought **a** hat, **some** shoes and **some** perfume.
- I read **a** newspaper, wrote **some** letters and listened to **some** music.

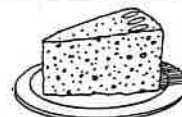
B

 Many nouns are *sometimes* countable and *sometimes* uncountable. For example:


a cake



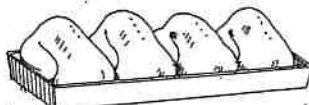
some cakes



some cake or a piece of cake



a chicken



some chickens



some chicken or a piece of chicken

Compare **a paper** (= a newspaper) and **some paper**:

- I want something to read. I'm going to buy **a paper**.
- but • I want to make a list. I need **some paper** / **a piece** of paper. (not 'a paper')

C

 Be careful with these nouns – they are usually uncountable:

information **advice** **weather** **news** **bread** **hair** **furniture** **work**

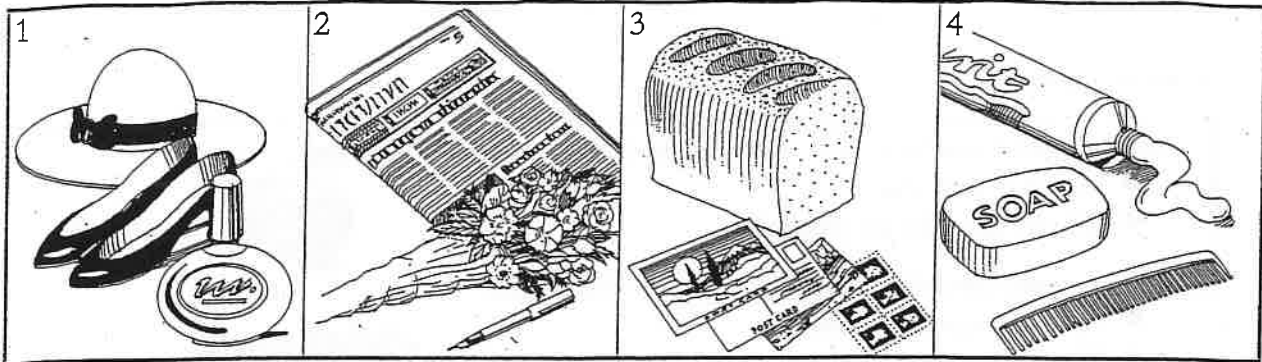
- I need **some information** about hotels in London. (not 'informations')
- It's nice **weather** today. (not 'a nice weather')
- Listen! I've just had **some** good **news**. (not 'a good news')
- I'm going to buy **some** **bread**. (not 'a bread')
- Sue has got very long **hair**. (not 'hairs')
- They've got **some** very nice **furniture** in their house. (not 'furnitures')
- 'Do you like your job?' 'Yes, but it's hard **work**.' (not 'a hard work')

We say **a job** (but not 'a work'):

- I've got **a** new **job**. (not 'a new work')

EXERCISES

67.1 What did you buy? Use the pictures to make sentences (I bought ...).



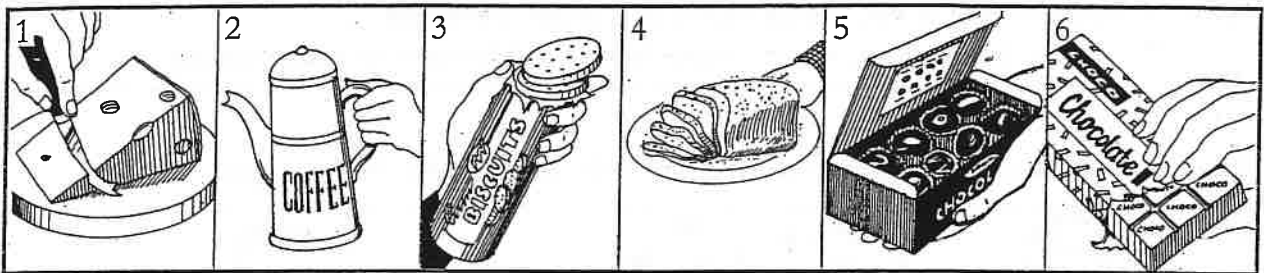
1 I bought some perfume, a hat and some shoes.

2 I bought

3

4

67.2 Write sentences with Would you like a ... ? or Would you like some ... ?



1 Would you like some cheese?

2 Would you like ?

3 Would ?

4

5

6

67.3 Put in a/an or some.

1 I read a book and listened to some music.

2 I need money. I want to buy food.

3 We met interesting people at the party.

4 I'm going to open window to get fresh air.

5 She didn't eat much for lunch - only apple and bread.

6 We live in big house. There's nice garden with beautiful trees.

7 I'm going to make a table. First I need wood.

8 Listen to me carefully. I'm going to give you advice.

9 I want to write a letter. I need paper and pen.

7.4 Which is right?

1 I'm going to buy some new shoe/shoes. shoes is right

2 Martin has got brown eye/eyes.

3 Paula has got short black hair/hairs.

4 The tourist guide gave us some information/informations about the town.

5 We're going to buy some new chair/chairs.

6 We're going to buy some new furniture/furnitures.

7 It's difficult to get a work/job at the moment.

8 We had lovely weather / a lovely weather when we were on holiday.