

# a bottle / some water (countable/uncountable 1)

A

A noun can be *countable* or *uncountable*.

Countable nouns

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

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



one **bottle**



two **bottles**



three **men**



four **houses**

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

*singular*  
*plural*

<b>a car</b>	<b>the car</b>	<b>my car</b>	etc.
<b>cars</b>	<b>two cars</b>	<b>the cars</b>	<b>some cars</b> <b>many cars</b> etc.

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

You can't use the singular (**car/bottle/key** etc.) alone. You need **a/an**:

- We can't get into the house without **a key**. (*not* without key)

B

Uncountable nouns

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

**water**



**water**

**salt**



**salt**



**money**



**music**

You can't 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 can't use **a/an** + *uncountable nouns*: ~~a money~~ ~~a music~~ ~~a water~~

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

<b>a bottle of</b> water	<b>a carton of</b> milk	<b>a bar of</b> chocolate
<b>a piece of</b> cheese	<b>a bottle of</b> perfume	<b>a piece of</b> music
<b>a bowl of</b> rice	<b>a cup of</b> coffee	<b>a game of</b> tennis

# Exercises

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

bucket    envelope    money    sand    toothbrush    wallet  
 egg    jug    ~~salt~~    ~~spoon~~    toothpaste    water

①  It's <u>salt</u> .....	②  It's <u>a spoon</u> .....	③  It's ..... .....	④  It's ..... .....
⑤  It's ..... .....	⑥  It's ..... .....	⑦  It's ..... .....	⑧  It's ..... .....
⑨  It's ..... .....	⑩  It's ..... .....	⑪  It's ..... .....	⑫  It's ..... .....

**67.2** Some of these sentences are OK, but some need **a/an**. Write **a/an** where necessary.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 I don't have watch. <u>a watch</u> ..... | 9 Jamaica is island. ....                 |
| 2 Do you like cheese? <u>OK</u> .....      | 10 I don't need key. ....                 |
| 3 I never wear hat. ....                   | 11 Everybody needs food. ....             |
| 4 Are you looking for job? ....            | 12 I've got good idea. ....               |
| 5 Kate doesn't eat meat. ....              | 13 Can you drive car? ....                |
| 6 Kate 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. ....    |

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

① 	② 	③ 	④ 	⑤ 	⑥ 	⑦ 	⑧ 	⑨ 
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bar    cup    loaf  
 bowl    glass    piece  
~~carton~~    jar    piece    +    bread    ~~milk~~    tea  
 chocolate    paper    water  
 honey    soup    wood

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