

a cake / some cake / some cakes (countable/uncountable 2)

A

a/an and some

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

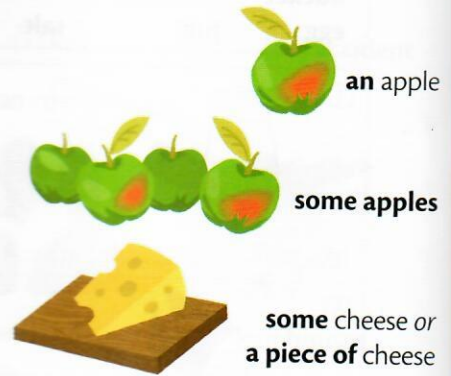
- I need **a** new **car**.
- Would you like **an** **apple**?

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

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

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

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



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

- Nicola bought **a** **hat**, **some** **shoes** and **some** **perfume**.
- I read **a** **newspaper**, made **some** **phone calls**, 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 shopping list. I need **some paper** / **a piece of paper**. (not a paper)

C

Be careful with:

advice bread furniture hair information news weather work

These nouns are usually uncountable. So you can't say **a/an** ... (-a bread, an advice), and they can't be plural (-advices, furnitures etc.).

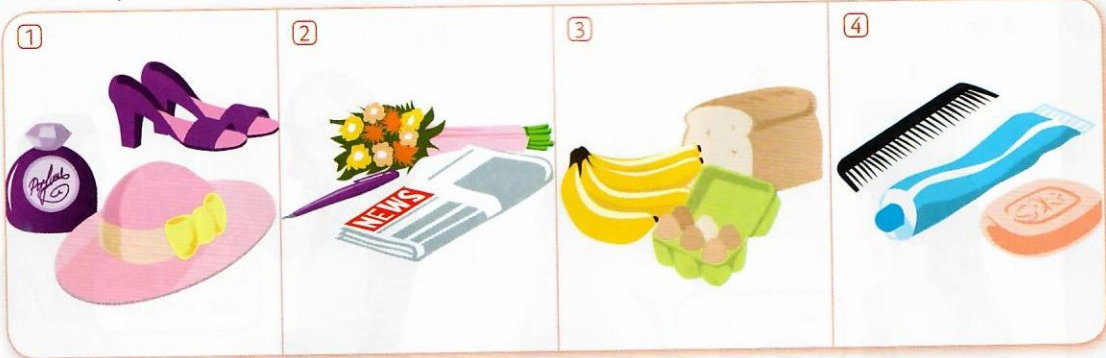
- Can I talk to you? I need **some advice**. (not an advice)
- I'm going to buy **some bread**. (not a bread)
- They've got **some** nice **furniture** in their house. (not furnitures)
- Silvia has very long **hair**. (not hairs)
- Where can I get **some information** about hotels here? (not informations)
- Listen! I've just had **some** good **news**. (not a good news)
- It's nice **weather** today. (not a nice weather)
- '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)

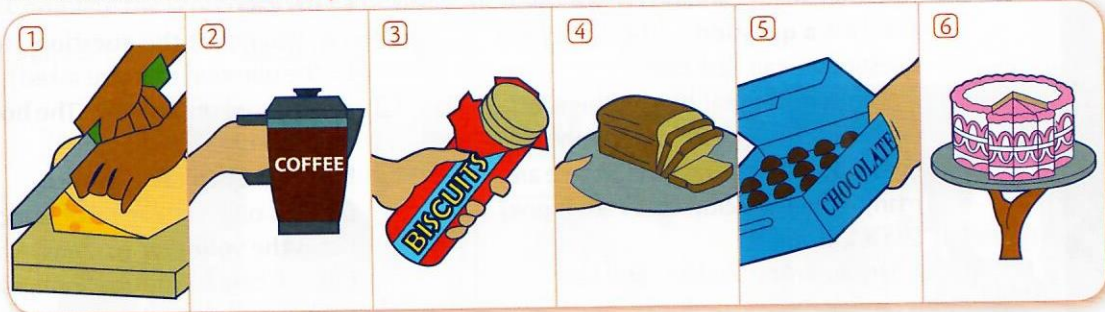
Exercises

68.1 What can you see in these pictures? Use **a** or **some**.



- 1 some perfume, a hat and some shoes
- 2
- 3
- 4

68.2 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

68.3 Write **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 Rachel 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 make a list of things to do. I need paper and pen.

68.4 Which is right?

- 1 I'm going to buy some new shoe/shoes. (shoes is right)
- 2 Mark has brown eye/eyes.
- 3 Paula has short black hair/hairs.
- 4 The tour guide gave us some information/informations about the city.
- 5 We're going to buy some new chair/chairs.
- 6 We're going to buy some new furniture/furnitures.
- 7 It's hard to find a work/job at the moment.
- 8 We had wonderful weather / a wonderful weather when we were on holiday.