



ARTICLES & DETERMINERS

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Choosing the right words before nouns

1. Learn the Difference

Countable nouns are things we can count individually. They have singular and plural forms.	Uncountable nouns are not normally counted as separate items. They usually do not have a plural form in their general meaning.								
• one apple, two apples • a chair, three chairs • an idea, several ideas	<table> <tr> <td>water</td><td>rice</td></tr> <tr> <td>money</td><td>advice</td></tr> <tr> <td>information</td><td>furniture</td></tr> <tr> <td>luggage</td><td>homework</td></tr> </table>	water	rice	money	advice	information	furniture	luggage	homework
water	rice								
money	advice								
information	furniture								
luggage	homework								
Some nouns can be countable or uncountable, depending on their meaning. • I drink coffee every morning. (the drink in general) • Two coffees, please. (two cups) • I bought some chicken. (meat) • There are three chickens in the garden. (animals)	We do not usually say an advice, informations or furnitures. Instead, use expressions such as: • a piece of advice • a piece of information • an item of furniture • a piece of luggage • a bowl of rice • a glass of water								

3. Choose the Correct Word

1. I need (some / a) information about the job.
2. We bought (three breads / three loaves of bread).
3. She gave me (an advice / some advice).
4. There are (much / many) people at the station.
5. We don't have (many / much) time.
6. He bought (a new equipment / some new equipment).
7. How (many / much) luggage have you got?
8. Could I have (a piece of / an) cake?
9. There are (a few / a little) chairs in the room.
10. Add (a few / a little) salt to the soup.

Countable or Uncountable?

C for countable
U for uncountable.

1. suitcase _____
2. equipment _____
3. suggestion _____
4. bread _____
5. traffic _____
6. coin _____
7. knowledge _____
8. sandwich _____
9. research _____
10. job _____
11. furniture _____
12. mistake _____

4. Complete the Sentences

Use a suitable word or phrase from the box. Use each answer once.

a piece of · a bottle of · a few · a little · many · much · some · an item of

1. Could you give me _____ advice?
2. We need _____ water for the journey.
3. There are only _____ eggs left.
4. I have _____ money, so I can buy a snack.
5. How _____ students are in your class?
6. How _____ sugar do you put in your tea?
7. She bought _____ furniture for her new apartment.
8. We packed _____ luggage for the trip.

5. Talk About Everyday Life

Ask and answer with a partner.

1. How much time do you spend cooking each day?
2. How many cups of coffee or tea do you drink?
3. What kinds of food do you keep in your kitchen?
4. What equipment do you use at work or at home?
5. What advice would you give someone learning English?
6. What things do people often carry when they travel?

Try to use at least three of these expressions: some, much, many, a few, a little, a piece of, and an item of.

REAL ENGLISH BOX

These uncountable nouns often cause mistakes:

- advice: "Can you give me some advice?"
- information: "I need more information."
- furniture: "The furniture is expensive."
- homework: "I have a lot of homework."
- traffic: "There was a lot of traffic."

Remember: these nouns usually take a singular verb when used as uncountable nouns.

Teacher's Key

Countable or Uncountable?

1 C, 2 U, 3 C, 4 U, 5 U, 6 C, 7 U, 8 C, 9 U, 10 C, 11 U, 12 C.

Activity 3: 1 some, 2 three loaves of bread, 3 some advice, 4 many, 5 much, 6 some new equipment, 7 much, 8 a piece of, 9 a few, 10 a little.

Activity 4: 1 a piece of, 2 a bottle of, 3 a few, 4 a little, 5 many, 6 much, 7 some, 8 an item of.

For Activity 5, accept relevant answers using countable and uncountable nouns correctly.