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):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>singular</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a car</td>
<td>the car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>my car</td>
<td>etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cars</td>
<td>two cars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the cars</td>
<td>some cars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>many cars</td>
<td>etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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)

Uncountable nouns

For example: water  air  rice  salt  plastic  money  music  tennis

water  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:  x money  x music  x water

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

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

a/an → Unit 65  countable/uncountable 2 → Unit 68
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bucket</th>
<th>envelope</th>
<th>money</th>
<th>sand</th>
<th>toothbrush</th>
<th>wallet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>egg</td>
<td>jug</td>
<td>-salt-</td>
<td>-spoon-</td>
<td>toothpaste</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. It's salt.
2. It's a spoon.
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 haven't got watch. a watch
2. Do you like cheese? OK
3. I never wear hat.
4. Are you looking for job?
5. Kate doesn't eat meat.
6. Kate eats apple every day.
7. I'm going to party tonight.
8. Music is wonderful thing.
9. Jamaica is island.
10. I don't need key.
11. Everybody needs food.
12. I've got good idea.
13. Can you drive car?
14. Do you want cup of coffee?
15. I don't like coffee without milk.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bar</th>
<th>cup</th>
<th>loaf</th>
<th>bread</th>
<th>milk</th>
<th>tea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bowl</td>
<td>glass</td>
<td>piece</td>
<td>chocolate</td>
<td>paper</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton</td>
<td>jar</td>
<td>piece</td>
<td>honey</td>
<td>soup</td>
<td>wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. a carton of milk
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
**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*:
- Nicole bought a hat, some shoes and some perfume.
- I read a newspaper, made some phone calls, and listened to some music.

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)

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 very nice furniture in their house. (not furnitures)
- Silvia has got very long hair. (not hairs)
- I’d like some information about hotels in London. (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 did you buy? Use the pictures to write sentences (I bought ...).

1. I bought some perfume, a hat and some shoes.
2. I bought
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. Would you like some tea?
5. Would you like some biscuits?
6. Would you like some coffee?

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 a window to get fresh air.
5. Rachel didn't eat much for lunch - only an apple and some bread.
6. We live in a big house. There's a 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 a pen.

68.4 Which is right?

1. I'm going to buy some new shoes. (shoes is right)
2. Martin has got brown eye/eyes.
3. Paula has got 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.
Unit 69

a/an and the

a/an

There are three windows here.  
a window = window 1 or 2 or 3

☐ I’ve got a car.
   (there are many cars and I’ve got one)
☐ Can I ask a question?  (there are many questions – can I ask one?)
☐ Is there a hotel near here? (there are many hotels – is there one near here?)
☐ Paris is an interesting city.  (there are many interesting cities and Paris is one)
☐ Lisa is a student.  
   (there are many students and Lisa is one)

the

There is only one window here –  
the window.

☐ I’m going to clean the car tomorrow.  
   (= my car)
☐ Can you repeat the question, please?  
   (= the question that you asked)
☐ We enjoyed our holiday.  The hotel was very nice.  
   (= our hotel)
☐ Paris is the capital of France.  
   (there is only one capital of France)
☐ Lisa is the youngest student in her class.  
   (there is only one youngest student in her class)

Compare a and the:

☐ I bought a jacket and a shirt.  The jacket was cheap, but the shirt was expensive.  
   (= the jacket and the shirt that I bought)

We say the … when it is clear which thing or person we mean.  For example:

the door / the ceiling / the floor / the carpet / the light etc.  (of a room)
the roof / the garden / the kitchen / the bathroom etc.  (of a house)
the centre / the station / the airport / the town hall etc.  (of a town)

☐ ‘Where’s Tom?’  ‘In the kitchen.’  
   (= the kitchen of this house or flat)
☐ Turn off the light and close the door.  
   (= the light and the door of the room)
☐ Do you live far from the centre?  
   (= the centre of your town)
☐ I’d like to speak to the manager, please.  
   (= the manager of this shop etc.)

a/an → Unit 65  
the → Units 70–73
Exercises

69.1 Write a/an or the.
1. We enjoyed our trip. ___The___ hotel was very nice.
2. ‘Can I ask ___a___ question?’ ‘Sure. What do you want to know?’
4. ‘Where’s Tom?’ ‘He’s in ___the___ garden.’
5. Eve is ___an___ interesting person. You should meet her.
6. A: Excuse me, can you tell me how to get to ___the___ city centre?
   B: Yes, go straight on and then take ___a___ next turning left.
7. A: Shall we go out for ___a___ meal this evening?
   B: Yes, that’s ___an___ good idea.
8. It’s ___a___ nice morning. Let’s go for ___a___ walk.
9. Amanda is ___a___ student. When she finishes her studies, she wants to be ___a___ journalist.
   She lives with two friends in ___a___ apartment near ___a___ college where she is studying.
   ___a___ apartment is small, but she likes it.
10. Peter and Mary have got two children, ___a___ boy and ___a___ girl. ___a___ boy is seven
    years old, and ___a___ girl is three. Peter works in ___a___ factory. Mary hasn’t got ___a___ job
    at the moment.

69.2 Complete the sentences. Use a or the + these words:

airport  cup  dictionary  door  floor  picture

1. Can you open ___the___ door, please?
2. How far is it to ___a___ airport?
3. Can I have ___a___ cup of coffee, please?
4. That’s ___a___ nice ___picture___ – I like it.
5. Can you pass ___a___ dictionary, please?
6. Why are you sitting on ___a___ floor?

69.3 These sentences are not correct. Put in a/an or the where necessary.
1. Don’t forget to turn off light when you go out. ___turn off the light___
2. Enjoy your trip, and don’t forget to send me postcard. ___to send me postcard___
3. What is name of this village?
4. Canada is very big country.
5. What is largest city in Canada?
6. I like this room, but I don’t like colour of carpet.
7. ‘Are you OK?’ ‘No, I’ve got headache.’
8. We live in old house near station.
9. What is name of director of film we saw last night?
We use the when it is clear which thing or person we mean:
- What is the name of this street? (there is only one name)
- Who is the best player in your team? (there is only one best player)
- Can you tell me the time, please? (= the time now)
- My office is on the first floor. (= the first floor of the building)

Don't forget the:
- Do you live near the city centre? (not near city centre)
- Excuse me, where is the nearest bank? (not where is nearest ...)

the same ...
- We live in the same street. (not in same street)
- ‘Are these two books different?’ ‘No, they’re the same.’ (not they’re same)

We say:
- the sun / the moon / the world / the sky / the sea / the country
  - The sky is blue and the sun is shining.
  - Do you live in a town or in the country?
- the police / the fire brigade / the army (of a city, country etc.)
  - My brother is a soldier. He’s in the army.
  - What do you think of the police? Do they do a good job?
- the top / the end / the middle / the left etc.
  - Write your name at the top of the page.
  - My house is at the end of the street.
  - The table is in the middle of the room.
  - Do you drive on the right or on the left in your country?
- (play) the piano / the guitar / the trumpet etc. (musical instruments)
  - Paula is learning to play the piano.

the radio
- I listen to the radio a lot.

the Internet
- Do you use the Internet much?

We do not use the with:

- television / TV
  - I watch TV a lot.
  - What’s on television tonight?
  - Can you turn off the television? (= the TV set)

- breakfast / lunch / dinner
  - What did you have for breakfast? (not the breakfast)
  - Dinner is ready!

- next / last + week/month/year/summer/Monday etc.
  - I’m not working next week. (not the next week)
  - Did you have a holiday last summer? (not the last summer)

a/an and the → Unit 69  the → Units 71–73  the oldest / the most expensive etc. → Unit 90
Exercises

Unit 70

70.1 Put in the where necessary. Write 'OK' if the sentence is already correct.

1 What is name of this street? the name
2 What’s on television tonight? OK
3 Our apartment is on second floor.
4 Would you like to go to moon?
5 Which is best hotel in this town?
6 What time is lunch?
7 How far is it to city centre?
8 We’re going away at end of May.
9 What are you doing next weekend?
10 I didn’t like her first time I met her.
11 I’m going out after dinner.
12 Internet is a good way of getting information.
13 My sister got married last month.
14 My dictionary is on top shelf on right.
15 We live in country about ten miles from nearest town.

70.2 Complete the sentences. Use the same + these words:

age colour problem street time

1 I live in North Street and you live in North Street. We live in the same street.
2 I arrived at 8.30 and you arrived at 8.30. We arrived at the same time.
3 Jim is 25 and Sue is 25. Jim and Sue are the same age.
4 My shirt is dark blue and so is my jacket. My shirt and jacket are the same colour.
5 I’ve got no money and you’ve got no money. We’ve got no problem.

70.3 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences. Use the if necessary.

1 The sun is shining. 4 He’s watching
2 She’s playing 5 They’re swimming in
3 They’re having 6 Tim’s name is at

70.4 Complete these sentences. Choose from the list. Use the if necessary.

capital dinner police lunch middle name sky television

1 We had dinner at a restaurant last night.
2 We stayed at a very nice hotel, but I don’t remember
3 is very clear tonight. You can see all the stars.
4 Sometimes there are some good films on late at night.
5 Somebody was trying to break into the shop, so I called
6 Tokyo is of Japan.
7 ‘What did you have for ?’ ‘A salad.’
8 I woke up in of the night.