

Most nouns in English have a singular and plural form (e.g. one bed, two beds), but many common things cannot be counted directly. These are called UNCOUNT NOUNS.

### 1 Uncount nouns:

#### a do not have a plural form:

We bought a lot of **food** at the supermarket.  
There's going to be some **rain** at the week-end.  
**Milk** is good for you.  
If you need to change money, go to the **bank**.

#### b take a singular verb:

Electricity is **dangerous**.  
Rice is the basic ingredient of Eastern **cooking**.  
**Water** is more important than food in the desert.

#### c cannot be used with a/an or a number:

My uncle started **work** when he was fourteen.  
Last winter we had **ice** on the lake.

#### d can be used with the/this/that/my etc (but not with plural words such as these/those) to talk about something specific:

What's **the food** like in that restaurant?  
I like **music**, but I didn't like **the music** we heard today.  
I gave you **that money** for clothes, not chocolates!



We bought a lot of food at the supermarket.

### 2 With uncount nouns you use the words *some*, *much* and *any* to talk about a quantity of something:

Mrs Pick went out to buy **some bread**.  
There's not **much petrol** in the car, so we'd better go to a garage.  
We haven't had **any rain** here since April.

### 3 Some nouns can be uncount nouns and count nouns. As uncount nouns they have a general meaning, and you use them as count nouns to talk about a particular example:

A shop near me sells **20 different cheeses**. I hate **cheese**.  
There's a **hair** in my soup! Val has long dark **hair**.  
It's made of **glass**. I had a **glass** of Coca-Cola.



There's a hair in my soup.



**A** Put these uncount nouns in the right categories:

snow	dinner	petrol	toast	ice
food	milk	maths	lunch	coffee
wood	aerobics	butter	physics	breakfast
metal	glass	bread	gold	tea

- 1 substances: SNOW
- 2 liquids: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 meals: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 types of food: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 sports/subjects: \_\_\_\_\_

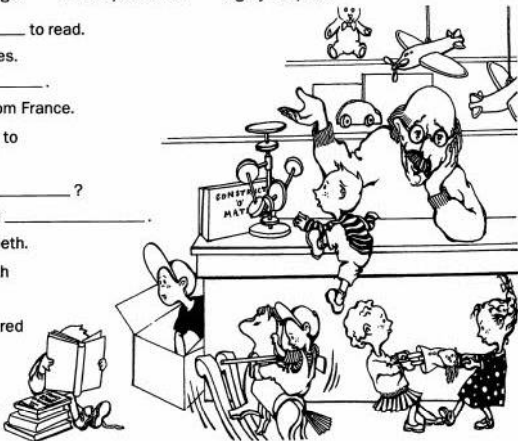
**B** Now use some of the uncount nouns from A to complete these sentences:

- 1 The car ran out of \_\_\_\_\_ a kilometre from our home.
- 2 We got up early, had \_\_\_\_\_, then drove to the airport.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ is a very valuable metal.
- 4 A lot of people keep fit by doing \_\_\_\_\_, which is exercising to music.
- 5 They say that the English drink a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 When we woke up, everything was white: the ground was covered with \_\_\_\_\_.

**C** Complete the sentences using the following words:

glass/glasses      paper/a paper      business/a business  
two sugars/sugar      cheese/a cheese      a grey hair/hair

- 1 Sam went out to buy \_\_\_\_\_ to read.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ is made from trees.
- 3 They say that mice like \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Camembert is \_\_\_\_\_ from France.
- 5 You don't always need a lot of money to start \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Do you prefer long or short \_\_\_\_\_?
- 7 I was very worried when I found I had \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ is bad for your teeth.
- 9 'How do you like your tea?' 'White with \_\_\_\_\_, please.'
- 10 After the accident the road was covered with broken \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11 We had a coffee and two \_\_\_\_\_ of mineral water.



- 12 '\_\_\_\_\_ is always good in the holidays,' said the toy-shop owner.