

**1 Review of Unit 18:**

Uncount nouns do not have a plural form. You do not use *a/an* with uncount nouns. You can use *some* with uncount nouns.

I bought **some rice** and **some milk**.

**2 Some nouns which are uncount nouns in English have plurals in other languages:**

advice	homework	machinery
baggage	information	money
equipment	knowledge	news
furniture	luggage	traffic

She gave me **a lot of useful advice**.  
There's **not much traffic** in town at midday.

How many of the words above have plurals in your language?

Mark them and remember that they are uncount in English.

**3 If you want to use these words with a plural meaning you often use these words:**

**bit:** She gave me a few **bits of advice**. I have a couple of **bits of news** for you.  
**piece:** They had only a few **pieces of furniture**.

You can say *a piece of* or *a bit of* if you want to show that you are talking about a single item:  
A calculator is a useful **piece of equipment**. That's a heavy **bit of luggage**.

**4 Nouns in -ing are uncount:**

Living at home is much cheaper. **Skating** is an expensive hobby.

**5 Many abstract nouns are uncount. Here are some of the commonest ones:**

time trouble weather love fun travel work happiness music

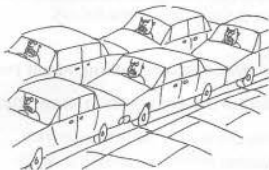
**6 Some nouns have two meanings – one count and one uncount:**

Hurry up. We haven't **much time**. I've been to Athens **three times**.

**A Use these words to complete the sentences below:**

advice information news homework money traffic furniture equipment

- I want to buy some stereo equipment. I wonder if you could give me some \_\_\_\_\_.
- Did you hear the \_\_\_\_\_ on the radio this morning?
- I can't go out tonight. I have too much \_\_\_\_\_.
- They bought a lot of new \_\_\_\_\_ for the dining room.
- He has two computers and lots of other electronic \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'd like some \_\_\_\_\_ about trains to Oxford please.
- How much \_\_\_\_\_ will we need for the journey?
- There's always a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ in the rush hour.

**B Rewrite these sentences using the words given in brackets:**

- Let me give you some advice. (a piece)  
*Let me give you a piece of advice.*
- There was some old furniture in the room. (a few bits of)
- I have some homework to do. (a couple of bits)
- The fire destroyed some expensive machinery. (a piece)
- I wonder if you could help me with some information. (a bit)
- I have some good news for you and some bad news. (a piece; a bit)
- A computer is very expensive equipment. (a piece of)



- They had a lot of luggage. (more than a dozen pieces)

**C Use these words to complete the sentences below:**

fun music trouble happiness weather travel work

- If you behave badly you will get into a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.
- We have lovely \_\_\_\_\_ in summer and autumn.
- I've got a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to do before I can go home tonight.
- We had a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ when we went out last night.
- That piano sonata is one of my favourite pieces of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Money doesn't always bring \_\_\_\_\_.
- I enjoy foreign \_\_\_\_\_.