

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?



an apple

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

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



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?)



some cheese or
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.

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** very nice **furniture** in their house. (*not furnitures*)
- Sylvia has very long **hair**. (*not hairs*)
- I'd like **some** **information** about hotels in Mexico City. (*not informations*)
- Listen! I've got **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*)

69.1 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. _____

69.2 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. _____ ?

69.3 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 yard 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 _____ pen.

69.4 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 these days.
8. We had wonderful weather / a wonderful weather when we were on vacation.