

a cake / some cake / some cakes
(count/noncount 2)

A

a/an and some

a/an + singular count nouns (car/apple/shoe, etc.):

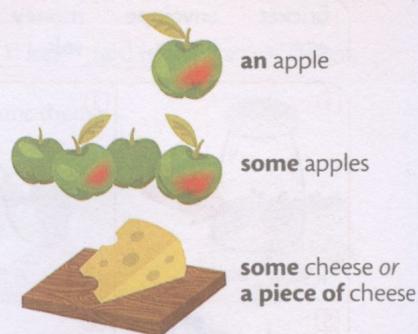
- I need **a** new **car**.
- Would you like **an apple**?

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

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

some + noncount 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**.

B

Many nouns are sometimes count and sometimes noncount. 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

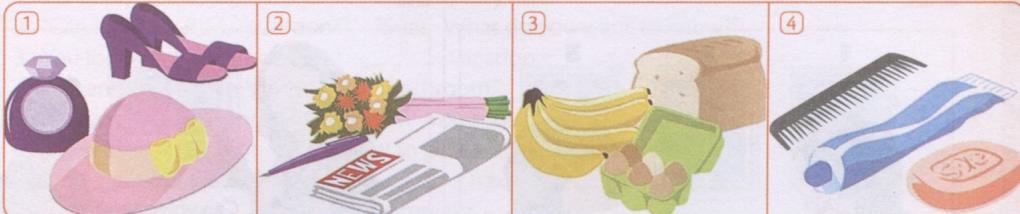
These nouns are usually noncount. So you can't say **a/an** ... (**a bread**, **an advice**), and they can't be plural (**advices**, **furnitures**, etc.).

- 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** nice **furniture** in their house. (not furnitures)
- Lauren has very long **hair**. (not hairs)
- Where can I get **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)

Exercises

66.1 What can you see in these pictures? Use **a** or **some**.

1 some perfume, a hat, and some shoes

2

3

4

66.2 Write sentences with **Would you like a ... ?** or **Would you like some ... ?**

1 Would you like some cheese ? 4 ?
 2 Would you like ... ? 5 ?
 3 Would ... ? 6 ?

66.3 Write **a/an** or **some**.

1 I read **a** book and listened to **some** music.
 2 I need **some** money. I want to buy **some** food.
 3 We met **some** interesting people at the party.
 4 I'm going to open **a** window to get **some** 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 yard with **some** beautiful trees.
 7 I'm going to make a table. First I need **some** wood.
 8 Listen to me carefully. I'm going to give you **some** advice.
 9 I want to make a list of things to do. I need **some** paper and **a** pen.

66.4 Which is right?

1 I'm going to buy **some** new shoe/shoes. (shoes is right)
 2 Dan has brown eye/eyes.
 3 Sofia 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.