

# **Countable / uncountable nouns**

a / an / some / any  
how much / how many?

# There are 2 kinds of noun in English:

## ■ Countable

- Things you can count (singular or plural)
- One apple, two apples, three apples...

## ■ Uncountable

- Things you can't count (they can't be plural)
- Butter, meat...
- Some nouns can be countable or uncountable but the meaning is different.
- Example: chocolate

# A / AN / SOME / ANY

Type of sentence	Countable	Uncountable
+ We need	an apple some apples	some butter some milk
- We don't need	a tomato any tomatoes	any rice any sugar
? Do we need	a tomato? any tomatoes?	any rice? any sugar?

- Use **a / an** with singular countable nouns.
- Use **some** with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns in + sentences.
- Use **any** with plural countable nouns and uncountable nouns in – or ? sentences.
- We can also use **some** in ? to ask for and offerings:
  - Can I have some coffee?
  - Do you want some biscuits?

# How much / how many...?

- Use *How much...?* with uncountable nouns.
  - *How much water do you drink?*
- Use *How many...?* with plural countable nouns.
  - *How many students do you have?*
- Possible answers:
  - *I drink **a lot** of water.*
  - *I drink **quite a lot**.*
  - *I don't drink **much** water. (**not much**)*
  - *I don't drink **any** water.*
  - *None.*
  - ***Not many** (students).*
  - *A few/Quite a few (students)*
  - *A lot/Lots/Loads (of...)*

# Choose a / an / some

■ some

■ some

■ a

■ some

■ some

■ some

■ some

■ some / a

Milk

Biscuits

Chair

Coffee

Pasta

Money

Students

Toast

■ some

■ some

■ some

■ some

■ some / an

■ an

■ some

■ some

Wine

Cars

People

Homework

Ice cream

Orange

Fruit

Fish