



Common Uncountable Nouns

Some nouns in English are uncountable, i.e. they refer to things which cannot be counted separately. We cannot often use the indefinite article (a/an) and to make an uncountable noun countable, we often use the construction:

A *glass* **of** *water*
a/an + noun container + of + uncountable noun

Examples of quantifying uncountable nouns:

- water - a bottle of water
- equipment - a piece of equipment
- cheese - a slice of cheese

All of these nouns are uncountable nouns in most contexts:

advice	*hope (e.g. There was never a hope)	rain
air	ice	research
alcohol	information	rice
art	jam (Except when talking about traffic jams)	sadness
beef	knowledge	salt
blood	lightning	sand
butter	literature	shopping
cheese	love	silver
chewing gum	luck	snow
coffee	luggage	space
confusion	meat	speed
cotton	milk	steam
education	mist	sugar
electricity	money	sunshine
entertainment	music	tea
experience	news	tennis
fiction	noise	thunder
flour	oil	*time (e.g. There was a time when..)
food	oxygen	toothpaste
forgiveness	paper (except when talking about academic papers)	traffic
fresh air	patience	trousers
furniture	pay	vinegar
gold	peace	washing up liquid
gossip (Except when talking about people who are gossips)	peanut butter	water
grass	pepper	weather
ground	petrol	wine
happiness	plastic	wood
*history (e.g. He has a history)	pork	wool
homework	power	work
honey	pressure	

* Sometimes accompanied by an article