



Learn English Through Stories

**Pre- intermediate  
Grammar**

**Adopted and modified by  
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<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

## **Banto's School Day by K S Sandhu**

Banto goes to a village primary school. She is in year 5. The school is big. There are many classrooms and one big playground.

Every morning, Banto wakes up at 6:30. She eats breakfast with her family. Her mother gives her bread and tea. Sometimes there is jam or honey on the bread.

Banto likes honey very much. She drinks a cup of milk too.

After breakfast, Banto takes her school bag. In the bag there are some books, a notebook, two pens, one pencil and an eraser. She has homework from yesterday. The homework is difficult today.

Banto walks to school with her friend Santo. On the way, they see many trees and some birds. The school starts at 8:00. In the classroom, there are twenty-five children. There are desks for all the pupils. The teacher, Mr Boot Das starts the lesson.

Today is Monday. The first lesson is mathematics. Mr Das says, "How many apples are there? There are five apples. What is five multiplied by twenty-one?"

Banto works this out in her head and says, "105."

Then he asks, "How much water is in the bottle?" Santo answers, "There is a lot of water."

Next is English. They learn new words. Some words are countable: one chair, two chairs, three tables. Other words are uncountable: rice, sugar, oil, sand. Banto writes the words in her notebook.

At break time, the children go to the playground. Banto has lunch in her small box. There is rice, some beans and some yellow dal. She drinks water from her bottle. She shares an orange with Santo.

After the break, they have art class. They draw pictures with paper, colours and pencils. Banto draws her house, her family and her dog. There is no money for new colours, so they use old ones.

At the end of the day, Banto goes home. She helps her mother cook dinner. They make soup with vegetables and potatoes. There is bread on the table too.

Banto is happy. She likes her school and her friends. She thinks, "School is good. There is a lot of fun and a little work!"

## 2 Countable and uncountable nouns (1)



### ROASTED VEGETABLES

#### Ingredients

one red onion  
two white onions  
three potatoes  
some carrots  
olive oil  
salt and pepper

### 1 Countable nouns

Countable nouns are things we can count, for example, *carrot, onion, potato*.

- they can be singular: *an onion*  
They often have *a/an, the, this/that* in front of them:  
*Is there a market here? Where's the market? This carrot is very sweet.*
- they can be plural: *onions*  
They often have *some, the, these/those* in front of them:  
*I'd like some apples, please. Those apples look good. Do you like apples?*

### 2 Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns are things we can't count, for example, *salt, oil, water*.

- they don't usually have a plural form: *one oil, two oils*
- they don't usually have *a/an* in front of them: *an oil, a salt*.

! Uncountable nouns often have *some* in front of them:

- ✗ *Can I have a milk in my coffee?*
- ✓ *Can I have some milk in my coffee?*

uncountable noun + singular verb

*Petrol* is expensive.  
*This advice* is very useful.

Some common uncountable nouns are:

- food: *bread, cheese, meat, tea, coffee, sugar*
- materials: *metal, wood, plastic, paper*
- school subjects and languages: *history, art, music, English, Russian*
- ideas and feelings: *advice, love, time, education, information*
- groups of similar things: *furniture* (chairs, tables, sofas) *luggage* (suitcases, bags)  
*money* (euros, pounds, dollars)

- ! ✗ *Do you have some informations about the castle?*
- ✓ *Do you have some information about the castle?*

## Practice

1 Is the noun in *italics> in each sentence countable (C) or uncountable (U)? Write C or U.*

- 0 Is there a *bank* near here? .....C.....      3 How much *luggage* do you have? .....
- 1 That *cheese* is delicious. ....      4 I need to get some *oil* for the car. ....
- 2 Do you have *milk* in your coffee? .....      5 Can I have some *potatoes*, please? .....

2 Are the nouns countable or uncountable?

countable	uncountable
apple	

apple art chair  
furniture information  
man market sugar

3 Match the pictures with the things on the shopping list.

4 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Choose the correct underlined words in the note from Adam to Rachel.

2.04 Listen and check.

Rachel

Can you buy the food for dinner tonight? Mum and Dad are coming, so can you get (0) a meat / some meat, maybe four nice (1) steak / steaks? We need some (2) potato / potatoes - four large (3) potato / potatoes for baking. Can you buy (4) a bread and a cheese / some bread and cheese, too, and maybe (5) a nice juicy melon / some nice juicy melon to start? Oh, and we need some (6) oil / oils as well. Thanks.

See you later,  
Adam

5 Correct the mistakes in the underlined parts of the sentences. 2.05 Listen and check.

- 0 Do you want a salt in your soup? <sup>(some) salt</sup>
- 1 Education are very important.
- 2 Can I have two box of eggs, please?
- 3 Can you give me some informations about the trains?
- 4 We've got a lot of luggages.
- 5 I must get a petrol for the car before we start.
- 6 I haven't got a lot of moneys.

## Answers

### UNIT 2

1 1 U 2 U 3 U 4 U 5 C

2

countable	uncountable
<i>apple</i>	<i>art</i>
<i>chair</i>	<i>furniture</i>
<i>man</i>	<i>information</i>
<i>market</i>	<i>sugar</i>

3 1 oil 2 4 potatoes 3 bread  
4 4 steaks 5 a melon

4 1 steaks 2 potatoes 3 potatoes 4 some bread  
and cheese 5 a nice juicy melon 6 oil

5 1 Education is 2 two boxes 3 some information  
4 luggage 5 some petrol 6 money