



Learn English Through Stories

Pre- intermediate Grammar

**Adopted and modified by
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Jeeya in the Kitchen by K S Sandhu

Jeeya lives in Jalandhar with her parents. She is ten years old. She studies in year five. One day she helps her Mum in the kitchen.

"Mum, can I help you today?" Jeeya asks.

"Yes, please! We need to make lunch for the family," Mum says with a smile.

First, Mum takes a big bag of rice from the cupboard. "We need half a kilo of rice," she says.

Jeeya looks at the bag. "Rice is uncountable," she thinks. "We don't say one rice or two rices. We say some rice or a lot of rice."

Mum gives Jeeya a small bowl, "Put some rice in this bowl, please."

Jeeya puts rice in the bowl. "How much rice?" she asks.

"Just a little bit of rice for now," Mum answers.

Next, Mum says, "We need vegetables. Can you get three carrots and two onions?"

Jeeya opens the fridge. She finds four carrots and three onions. "Here are the carrots and onions," she says. "Carrots and onions are countable. We can say one carrot, two carrots, three carrots."

"Good girl!" Mum smiles.

Now Mum needs milk. "Jeeya, please bring a litre of milk from the shop."

Jeeya goes to the small shop near their house. "Hello, uncle! I want a litre of milk, please," she says.

The shopkeeper gives her a big bottle. "Here is one litre of milk," he says.

When Jeeya comes back, Mum is happy. "Thank you! Now we need some sugar. Can you measure half a kilo of sugar?"

Jeeya takes the sugar bag. She puts sugar on the scale. "Half a kilo is 500 grams," she says. "Sugar is uncountable too."

After that, Mum wants to make tea for everyone. "Jeeya, put water in the kettle. We need six cups of tea."

Jeeya puts water in the kettle. "Water is uncountable," she remembers from school.

Mum takes a packet of tea leaves. "Tea comes from our country and China," Mum says. "We use tea leaves to make a good cup of tea.

"Jeeya thinks about her English lesson, "We say a cup of tea, not a tea."

When the tea is ready, Mum says, "Jeeya, can you cut a loaf of bread? We need eight slices of bread.

"Jeeya takes the bread knife. She cuts the loaf carefully. "One slice, two slices... eight slices!"

Mum also takes a piece of cheese from the fridge. "We can have a piece of cheese with the bread."

After lunch, Grandma comes to visit. She brings a box of chocolates. "Here is a box of chocolates for you, Jeeya!"

Jeeya looks inside. "Wow! Ten chocolates!"

Grandma smiles. "You can have one chocolate now."

Jeeya takes one chocolate. "Thank you, Grandma. Chocolate is delicious! French chocolate is very good, but Indian chocolate is nice too.

"In the afternoon, Jeeya helps Mum clean the kitchen. Mum says, "Jeeya, please throw away this old paper."

Jeeya sees some paper on the table. "This is a newspaper," she says. "Can I read the paper first?"

"Yes, you can read the paper," Mum says. "Paper is made from wood."

Jeeya reads a little. Then she helps Mum wash two glasses, three plates, and four spoons.

At the end of the day, Jeeya is tired but happy. She thinks about all the things she used.

Countable nouns: three carrots, two onions, eight slices of bread, ten chocolates, four spoons, six cups.

Uncountable nouns: rice, water, sugar, tea, milk, cheese.

And units: a litre of milk, half a kilo of sugar, a cup of tea, a piece of cheese, a box of chocolates, a loaf of bread.

Jeeya smiles. "English is fun!" she says.

Mum hugs her. "You are a very good helper, Jeeya. And you are learning fast!"

3 Countable and uncountable nouns (2)



1 Nouns that can be countable or uncountable

Some nouns have a countable meaning and an uncountable meaning:

COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE
	
<i>I'd like three teas, please. (cups of tea)</i>	<i>Tea comes from China and India. (drink)</i>
<i>My uncle has 25 chickens on his farm. (animals)</i>	<i>I love chicken, it's delicious! (food)</i>
<i>Would you like a chocolate? (one sweet)</i>	<i>French chocolate is very good. (food)</i>
<i>Can you buy a paper at the shop? (a newspaper)</i>	<i>Paper is made from wood. (material)</i>
<i>There are four Russians in my class. (people)</i>	<i>Do you speak Russian? (language)</i>

2 Ways of counting uncountable nouns

We 'count' uncountable nouns like this:

UNITS

a piece of cake/cheese
a piece of furniture/luggage/paper
a bit of information
a bar of chocolate
a slice of bread/toast/cake
a loaf of bread

CONTAINERS

a carton of milk/juice
a can/tin of soup
a glass of orange juice
a box of chocolates
a cup of coffee
a bottle of water
a tube of toothpaste

MEASUREMENTS

a litre of milk
half a kilo of sugar
six metres of cotton



We don't use uncountable nouns with *a* or *an*:

X Can I have a toast?

✓ Can I have a slice of toast?

We can say:

Would you like some chocolate? or *Would you like a bar of chocolate?*

When we talk about drinks like tea and coffee we can say:

Would you like some coffee? *Would you like a cup of coffee?* *Would you like a coffee?*

Practice

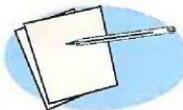
1 Write the correct words from the box under the pictures.



0 a paper



1



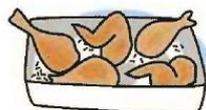
2



3



4



5



6



7

a chicken
chicken
a chocolate
chocolate
a coffee
coffee
a paper
paper

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the conversations with *a* or *some*. **2.06** Listen and check.

- 0 A Would you like chocolate?
B Oh, yes. Can I have that white one?
- 1 A I've got luggage in the car.
B How many bags have you got?
- 2 A What's on at the cinema tonight?
B I'm not sure. I'll buy paper and check.
- 3 A We need sugar.
B OK, a kilo or half a kilo?
- 4 A Can we pay the bill, please?
B Of course, two coffees and tea. That's £4.50.

3 Match the words on the left with the things on the right.

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|
| 0 a cup of | → | A toast |
| 1 a tube of | | B milk |
| 2 a bit of | | C toothpaste |
| 3 a piece of | | D soup |
| 4 a litre of | | E coffee |
| 5 a can of | | F information |
| 6 a slice of | | G paper |

global comment re lists: all figures/numbers range right except arrowed lists of units on module Openers and Tests

4 **GRAMMAR IN USE** The underlined words are all in the wrong place.

Find and write the correct words. **2.07** Listen and check.

HANNAH Hi, Josie. I'm going to the shops now. Do you want anything?

JOSIE Oh, yes please, just (0) a piece of water, (1) a kilo of soup and (2) a cup of potatoes.

HANNAH That's no problem. I can get those.

JOSIE That's nice of you. Come in and have (3) a slice of coffee before you go.

HANNAH Oh, lovely. Thanks.

JOSIE Would you like (4) a glass of cake, too?

HANNAH No, thanks. I had (5) two tins of chocolate earlier, but can I have (6) a bottle of water with the coffee? I'm really thirsty.

JOSIE Of course. Now, let me find (7) a bar of paper and make a list of the shopping ...

Answers

UNIT 3

1 1 chocolate 2 paper 3 a chicken 4 coffee
5 chicken 6 a coffee 7 a chocolate

2 1 some 2 a 3 some 4 a

3 1 C 2 F 3 G 4 B 5 D 6 A

4 1 two tins of 2 a kilo of 3 a cup of 4 a slice of
5 a bar of 6 a glass of 7 a piece of