

## Unit 47: MASS NOUNS

Mass nouns do not have a singular or plural form (Unit 45). We cannot say *a water* or *three waters*; we just say **water**.

### 1 Important mass nouns

All liquids	coffee soup	juice water	gas	milk	oil	tea
Some food	butter honey	cheese meat	flour parsley	food toast	fruit sugar	rice salt
Materials	cotton	leather	gold	metal	paper	wood
Abstracts	advice love	education music	information news	knowledge time	homework	life
Also	furniture	hair	luggage	money	weather	

### 2 How to count mass nouns

- a** For many mass nouns (except liquids), we can use **bit**:  
a **bit** of advice      a little **bit** of salt      two **bits** of cheese
- b** For many mass nouns (except liquids and some abstracts), we can use **piece**:  
a **piece** of bread      two **pieces** of information
- c** For liquids and some food, we can use containers:  
a **jar** of honey      three **cups** of coffee      a **bottle** of water
- d** For liquids, food and material, we can use measuring words:  
ten **litres** of gas      fifty **grams** of sugar

**NOTICE:** It is correct to say **two coffees, please** in a café because we understand **two cups of coffee**.

**NOTICE:** Unit 56 shows you other words to use with mass nouns.