

Food & Drinks

Uncountable noun Common partitives

Example

bread	a loaf / slice / piece of bread	I bought two loaves of bread .
cheese	a piece / slice / block of cheese	Can I have two slices of cheese ?
cake	a piece / slice of cake	She had a piece of cake .
chocolate	a bar / piece of chocolate	I bought two bars of chocolate .
rice	a bowl / bag / grain of rice	I had a bowl of rice .
sugar	a spoonful / teaspoon / cup / bag of sugar	Add two teaspoons of sugar .
salt	a pinch / spoonful of salt	Add a pinch of salt .
flour	a bag / cup / spoonful of flour	Add two cups of flour .
butter	a stick / pat / piece of butter	Add a pat of butter .
meat	a piece / slice / cut of meat	He ordered a piece of meat .
chicken	a piece / slice / portion of chicken	I had a piece of chicken .
fish	a piece / fillet / portion of fish	We ordered two fillets of fish .
pizza	a slice / piece of pizza	I'll have two slices of pizza .
soup	a bowl / cup of soup	She ordered a bowl of soup .
coffee	a cup / mug / pot of coffee	I had two cups of coffee .
tea	a cup / pot of tea	Would you like a cup of tea ?
water	a glass / bottle / drop / litre of water	Drink two bottles of water .
juice	a glass / bottle / carton of juice	I bought a carton of juice .
milk	a glass / bottle / carton of milk	We need two cartons of milk .
ice cream	a scoop / bowl / tub of ice cream	I'll have two scoops of ice cream .

Abstract & Academic Words

These are especially useful because students often make mistakes with them.

Uncountable noun	Partitive	Example
advice	a piece of advice	She gave me two pieces of advice .
information	a piece of information	I found three pieces of information .
evidence	a piece of evidence	They found several pieces of evidence .
news	a piece of news	I have an interesting piece of news .
research	a piece of research / study	I read an interesting piece of research .
knowledge	a piece of knowledge	He shared a valuable piece of knowledge .
equipment	a piece / item of equipment	We need three pieces of equipment .
furniture	a piece / item of furniture	They bought several pieces of furniture .
luggage	a piece / item of luggage	Each passenger can bring two pieces of luggage .
work	a piece of work	She presented an impressive piece of work .
art	a piece / work of art	The museum displayed several works of art .
music	a piece of music	He composed a beautiful piece of music .
advice	a word of advice	Let me give you a word of advice .
criticism	a piece of criticism	He received some constructive criticism .

Communication & Information

- a **piece of information**
- a **piece of news**
- a **word of advice**
- a **word of warning**
- a **word of encouragement**
- a **piece of advice**
- a **piece of evidence**
- a **piece of research**
- a **piece of writing**

- a piece of work
- a piece of correspondence

Examples:

Let me give you a word of advice.

The report contains several pieces of important information.

The lawyer presented three pieces of evidence.

Weather & Nature

Uncountable noun Partitive		Example
rain	a drop / shower / spell of rain	We had a shower of rain .
snow	a flake / layer / blanket of snow	A layer of snow covered the ground.
thunder	a clap / peal of thunder	We heard a clap of thunder .
lightning	a flash / bolt of lightning	A flash of lightning lit up the sky.
wind	a gust / blast of wind	A strong gust of wind blew the door open.
sunshine	a ray / beam of sunshine	A ray of sunshine came through the window.
fog	a bank / patch of fog	A patch of fog covered the road.
smoke	a cloud / plume of smoke	A cloud of smoke filled the room.

Money & Business

- a **sum of money**
- a **large amount of money**
- a **small amount of money**
- a **lump sum of money**
- a **wad of cash**
- a **piece of financial advice**
- a **piece of business information**

Examples:

He inherited a large sum of money.

She received a lump sum of money.

Clothes & Materials

- a **piece of clothing**
- an **item of clothing**
- a **piece of fabric**
- a **length of fabric**
- a **sheet of paper**
- a **piece of paper**
- a **roll of paper**
- a **sheet of glass**
- a **piece of wood**
- a **block of wood**
- a **piece of metal**

Examples:

I bought three items of clothing.

We need a piece of fabric for the project.

Paper, Documents & Writing

- a **piece of paper**
 - a **sheet of paper**
 - a **sheet of information**
 - a **piece of writing**
 - a **piece of work**
 - a **piece of literature**
 - a **piece of legislation**
 - a **piece of documentation**
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Great Partitives to Teach as Chunks

These are particularly useful for English learners:

a piece of advice
a piece of information
a piece of evidence
a piece of news
a piece of furniture
a piece of equipment
a piece of luggage
a piece of research
a piece of work
a piece of music
a piece of cake
a slice of bread
a loaf of bread
a bowl of rice
a bottle of water
a cup of coffee
a pinch of salt
a spoonful of sugar
a drop of water
a gust of wind