

The Use of Articles with Nouns of Material

- I. With nouns of material used in a general sense (the so-called “abstract concept”) **no** article is used. (they are uncountable)
E.g. Ø Honey is wholesome.
Ø Water boils at 100°C

- II. In other cases the article (indefinite/definite) is used according to the general rule.

a / an: 1. When they become countable:

a) denoting different sorts of material.

E.g. a wine – wines (=“one”)

b) denoting helpings.

E.g. a soup – 3 soups (=“one”)

2. When they are modified by a descriptive attribute.

E.g. I'd like a Dutch cheese.

It is a very good whisky.

the: 1. When they are modified by a particularizing attribute.

E.g. The milk in the glass is mine. Don't touch it !

2.. When the situation makes them definite.

E.g. She bought some bread. The bread turned out to be stale.

- III. “**Some**” is often used when the indefinite part of the substance is meant.

E.g. She bought (some) cheese.

There is (some) milk in the bottle.