

## A Buffet Lunch- Countable and Uncountable Nouns Roleplay Meeting

*Your company has decided to provide a buffet in the office at lunch time in the middle of next week's annual sales conference, which will have 40 participants from all over the world. Hold a meeting to decide which food and drink etc you need, **and how many or how much of each thing**, thinking about cultural differences such as not eating food for religious reasons. **Start at the very beginning** of the meeting (greetings etc) and **continue until the very end** (saying goodbye etc).*

- Alcoholic drinks – ale, (hard) cider, cocktails, lager, liqueurs, mixers, rice wine, spirits, vodka
- Asian food and drinks – bamboo shoots, bean curd/ tofu, beansprouts, bonito flakes, chewy rice cake, Chinese dumplings/ dim sum/ pot stickers, Chinese cabbage/ Chinese lettuce, cucumber sushi, fermented soy beans, fried rice, Japanese horse radish/ wasabi, lotus roots, miso soup, pickled plums, pork buns, pot noodles, prawn crackers, red bean jam desserts, rice crackers, rice porridge, sesame oil, soy sauce, spring rolls, stir fry, water chestnuts
- Condiments/ Seasonings – barbecue sauce, black pepper (shakers), brown sauce, chili sauce, (English/ French/ wholegrain) mustard, gravy, oil, sweet pickle, salad dressing, salt, vinegar
- Crockery – bowls, cups, glasses, jugs, mugs, (paper/ plastic) plates
- Cutlery – chopsticks/ disposable chopsticks, forks, knives, (tea) spoons, toothpicks, bottle openers, corkscrews, tongs
- Dairy food – (blue/ parmesan/ processed) cheese, butter, (full-fat/ skimmed) milk, quail eggs, yoghurt, whipped cream
- Dessert/ Sweet – biscuits/ cookies, cake/ cakes, chocolate/ chocolates, crème caramel, croissants, custard, Danish pastries, honey, ice cream/ ice creams, ice lollies, pancakes, shaved ice with toppings
- Fruit – apricots, cherries, grapes, mandarins/ satsumas/ tangerines, pears, plums
- Hot drinks – creamer, (black/ green/ oolong/ powdered) tea, herb tea, hot chocolate, (instant/ real) coffee, (brown) sugar, (sachet of) sweetener
- Meat and meat dishes – bacon, beef, (roast/ fried) chicken, chicken legs, chicken

wings, chops, cutlets, duck, hamburgers, lamb, meat balls, mutton, pâté, pork, sausages, stew, tongue, tripe, turkey, veal, wild boar

- Seafood – cod, crab/ crabs, eel/ eels, fish eggs, (fried/ grilled/ raw/ smoked/ dried) fish, jellyfish, mackerel, octopus, prawns/ shrimps, puffer fish, scallops, salmon, sea urchin, (dried) seaweed, sardines, shellfish, squid, tuna
- Snacks – chestnuts, crisps/ chips, fresh green soy beans, monkey nuts/ peanuts, walnuts
- Soft drinks – drinking yoghurt/ lassi, energy drinks, fruit juice, fizzy drinks/ pop/ soda, fizzy water/ sparkling water, iced tea/ iced barley tea
- Staple foods/ Starchy foods – (slices of) bread, (bread) rolls, chips/ French fries, brown/ white rice, croquettes, mashed potato, noodles, pasta
- Vegetables – aubergine/ egg plant, (pickled) cabbage, (baby) carrots, cauliflower, (chili/ green/ red) peppers, green beans, (leaves of) lettuce, mushrooms/ champignons, peas, (baked/ boiled/ roast) potatoes, soy beans, spinach, spring onion, sweet potatoes

*Is there anything above which you don't need at all?*

**Possible amounts to talk about**

a/ an	a couple (of)	a dozen
a few (of)	a huge amount (of)	a huge number (of)
a little (of)	a lot (of)/ lots (of)	no
not many	not much	one or two
quite a lot (of)	some	

*Put the “possible amounts to talk about” words above into order of size with the countable and uncountable nouns given and “+s” when needed in the spaces given below, e.g. “some meat” in the middle of the right-hand column. Note that some can go in both and two have the same meaning and grammar and so should go next to each other in the same column.*

	<b>+ countable nouns (+ spring roll/ spring rolls etc)</b>	<b>+ uncountable nouns (+ meat etc)</b>
big		
small		

*Can you add any more similar expressions?*

*Without looking above, add “some” and “+s” to any of the words below which can take it (because they’re countable) and just “some” to the others (because they’re uncountable).*

vodka  
spring roll  
toothpick  
barley tea  
biscuit/ cookie  
black pepper  
bread  
brown rice  
brown sugar  
chicken wing  
Chinese dumpling/ pot sticker  
chip/ French fry  
(hard) cider  
corkscrew  
crisp/ chip  
crockery  
croquette  
custard  
Danish pastry  
disposable chopstick  
fish egg  
fizzy water  
fried rice  
gravy  
jug  
lager  
mandarin/ satsuma/ tangerine  
meat dish  
parmesan cheese  
pickled plum  
pork bun  
pork cutlet  
powdered green tea  
quail egg  
rice cracker  
rice wine  
salad dressing  
seaweed  
shaved ice  
vinegar  
bean curd  
beansprout

*Hints: There should be the same number of each, liquids and powders are uncountable, and general categories are often uncountable  
Check your answers with the previous page, then talk about how many or how much of the things above you’d want for the buffet lunch (if any).*

**Nouns which are both countable and uncountable**

*Draw the pairs of foods in the spaces given below. They are always different from each other.*

some cake	some cakes
some chocolate	some chocolates
some ice cream	some ice creams
some chicken	some chickens
some crab	some crabs
some (mashed) potato	some potatoes
some (black) pepper	some (green/ red/ yellow) peppers