

Countable and uncountable categories and examples board game and presentation

Move around the board by making correct examples of the thing in the square with “some”. You move one square for each correct example when you decide to stop, but can’t move if you make a mistake.

time	transport	weather	winter clothing	START alcohol
thread	<p style="text-align: center;">Instructions</p> <p>You need one counter each, for example an eraser for one person, a ring for the second person and a small coin for the third person. Place them all on the “Start” square. To move around the board, you must give examples of things in the category in the square with the correct grammar. Start each example with “some”, for example “(There is) some wine” for “liquids” or “(There are) some handbags” for “luggage”. You get one point for each example you can give that is in that category and has the right grammar, and when you have finished you can move that number of squares. However, if you make a mistake you get no points, so make sure you stop whenever you are not sure about your next answer.</p> <p>Continue going round and round the board until your teacher tells you to stop, at which point whoever is ahead wins.</p>			beachwear
stuff that you spread on bread				beauty products
stuff that you rub onto your skin				bedding
stuff that you pull a length of				condiments
stuff that you add to hot drinks				crockery
sportswear				cutlery
powder				detergent
pollution				fabric/ cloth
mouth care products				footwear
metal				fruit
men’s grooming products				fuel
men’s clothing				furniture
meat				gas
make up				hair care products
luggage	ingredients for baking			
literature	liquid in the kitchen	liquid in a car	lighting	jewellery



Without looking back at the board, add just “some” or “some _____ s” to the categories below depending on whether they are countable or uncountable.

alcohol
beachwear
beauty product
bedding
condiment
crockery
cutlery
detergent
fabric/ cloth
footwear
fruit
fuel
furniture
gas
hair care product
ingredient for baking
jewellery
lighting
liquid in a car
liquid in the kitchen
literature
luggage
make up
meat
men’s clothing
men’s grooming product
metal
mouth care product
pollution
powder
sportswear
stuff that you add to hot drinks
stuff that you pull a length of
stuff that you rub onto your skin
stuff that you spread on bread
thread
time
transport
weather
winter clothing

Brainstorm examples of each category until you have enough to decide whether examples of that thing are usually countable or uncountable.

Check with the answer key below.

Suggested answers

- 1 some alcohol - champagne, rum, bitter, mild, IPA, pale ale, rosé, vodka, stout, porter, cider – uncountable
- 2 some beachwear – swimming costume, summer hat, bikini, bikini top, sarong – countable
- 3 some beauty products – body scrub, moisturiser, hand cream, hairspray – uncountable
- 4 some bedding – quilt, fitted sheet, pillow case, duvet, valence, blanket, bedspread – countable
- 5 some condiments – ketchup, soy sauce, Tabasco, brown sauce, salt, pepper, English mustard, chutney, pickle, mayonnaise – uncountable
- 6 some crockery – plate, soup bowl, saucer, mug, side plate – countable
- 7 some cutlery – (table/ tea/ serving/ soup/ dessert) spoon, (fish/ steak) fork, (fish/ steak/ kitchen/ bread/ carving) knife, (disposable) chopstick – countable
- 8 some detergent – fabric softener, washing powder, washing up liquid, hand soap – uncountable
- 9 some fabric/ cloth – denim, polyester, Lycra, hemp, jute, lace, wool, cashmere – uncountable
- 10 some footwear – high heel, trainer, plimsoll, clog, welly (= Wellington boot), flip flop (= thong) – countable
- 11 some fruit – apple, Satsuma, mandarin, pear, pineapple – countable
- 12 some fuel – coal, petrol, paraffin, diesel – uncountable
- 13 some furniture – armchair, dinner table, kitchen chair, swivel chair, filing cabinet, sideboard, chest of drawers, dresser, queen-sized bed, futon/ sofa-bed – countable
- 14 some gas – oxygen, CO₂, hydrogen, helium, nitrogen, carbon monoxide, methane – uncountable
- 15 some hair care products – conditioner, hairspray, gel, Brylcreem – uncountable
- 16 some ingredients for baking – flour, margarine, water, egg white, icing sugar, yeast – uncountable
- 17 some jewellery – engagement ring, wedding ring, dangly earring – countable
- 18 some lighting – desk lamp, fluorescent strip, LED bulb, torch – countable
- 19 some liquid in a car – oil, brake fluid, antifreeze, water, petrol (= gas = gasoline) – uncountable
- 20 some liquid in the kitchen – vinegar, sauce, oil, soya milk, soy sauce – uncountable
- 21 some literature – poem, novel, novella, short story, play – countable
- 22 some luggage – knapsack, sack, briefcase, suitcase, backpack, satchel, rucksack, handbag, shoulder bag, attaché case – countable
- 23 some make up – foundation, eye liner, eye shadow, blusher – uncountable
- 24 some meat – bacon, ham, tongue, pork, chicken, horse, mutton, beef, lamb, venison – uncountable
- 25 some men's clothing – bomber jacket, shirt, (bow)tie, DJ, (double-breasted) jacket – countable
- 26 some men's grooming products – shaving foam, aftershave, hair gel, Brylcreem, shower gel, deodorant, anti-perspirant – uncountable
- 27 some metal – aluminium, stainless steel, copper, bronze, platinum, gold, cast iron, tin – uncountable
- 28 some mouth care products – floss, mouthwash, toothpaste, tooth polish – uncountable
- 29 some pollution – sewage, smoke, smog – uncountable

- 30 some powder – flour, cocaine, sugar, salt, pepper, washing powder – uncountable
- 31 some sportswear – tracksuit, headband, sweatshirt, trainer, vest – countable
- 32 some stuff that you add to hot drinks – (whipped) cream, sweetener, sugar, (full fat/ semi-skimmed/ skimmed) milk, alcohol, creamer – uncountable
- 33 some stuff that you pull a length of – cling film (= wrap), aluminium foil, toilet roll, kitchen roll, string, cotton thread, Sellotape (= Scotch Tape), masking tape, insulating tape – uncountable
- 34 some stuff that you rub onto your skin – Vaseline, Vick's, after sun, suntan lotion – uncountable
- 35 some stuff that you spread on bread – jam, marmalade, pâté, pickle, relish, chutney, mustard, margarine, butter, Marmite/ Vegemite
- 36 some thread – (dental) floss, string, rope, cotton, twine – uncountable
- 37 some time – (milli)sec(ond), millennium, fortnight, (long) weekend, mo(ment), era, generation – countable
- 38 some transport – minibus, convertible/ cabriolet, estate, SUV, Beemer, Mercedes, rubber dinghy, gondola, limousine, airport shuttle bus – countable
- 39 some weather – rain, hail, sleet, fog, smog, mist, sea spray – uncountable
- 40 some winter clothing – woolly scarf, jumper, fleece, mitten – countable

Without looking above for now, brainstorm examples of these things

Uncountable categories with (mainly) uncountable examples	Uncountable categories with (mainly) countable examples	Countable categories with (mainly) uncountable examples	Countable categories with (mainly) countable examples