

Partitive Expressions with Uncountable Nouns

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This is a list of one hundred partitive expressions containing a partitive + uncountable noun, each with an example sentence. The expressions are in alphabetical order based on the uncountable noun.

See also: the grammar of partitives and uncountable nouns

partitive expression	example sentence
a torrent of abuse	The manager was so angry that he let loose a torrent of abuse at his workers.
a piece of advice	Can I offer you a piece of advice about investing your savings?
a fit of anger	Harry slapped his girlfriend in a fit of anger.
a work of art	Everyone says her garden's a work of art, it's so beautiful.
a rasher of bacon	How many rashers of bacon would you like with your breakfast?
a glass of beer	If you drink more than two glasses of beer, you shouldn't drive a car.
a drop of blood	There were two or three drops of blood on the carpet.
a spot of bother	I'm in a spot of bother because I can't find my car keys, and I'm already late.
a loaf of bread	How much does a loaf of bread cost in Japan?
a pat of butter	Could I have three pats of butter and some jam, please?
a game of chess	We played three games of chess, and Bobby won all of them.
a bar of chocolate	If you're a good boy, I'll give you a bar of chocolate.
an item of clothing	Put any items of clothing you no longer need into this box.
a lump of coal	The kids found some lumps of coal beside the railway tracks, and took them home.
a cup of coffee	The first thing I do when I get to work is have a cup of coffee.
an ear of corn	Ears of corn are usually steamed or boiled and then served with butter.
a scrap of difference	Writing letters to corrupt politicians won't make a scrap of difference to the way they behave.
a speck of dust	They have no kids, and you won't find a speck of dust in their home.
a scrap of evidence	There wasn't a scrap of evidence to prove he'd done it, but he was still sent to jail for life.

partitive expression	example sentence
an item of expenditure	You must have a receipt for every item of expenditure you want to claim.
an article of faith	Freedom of expression is an article of faith among truly democratic people.
a morsel of food	There wasn't a morsel of food left in the house, so we had to go out for dinner.
a breath of fresh air	The room was crowded and I felt faint so I went outside for a breath of fresh air.
a piece of fruit	Everyone should eat at least three pieces of fruit a day.
a bit of fun	After working hard all day, we felt like having a bit of fun.
a piece of furniture	We need a piece of furniture that will look good in that empty corner.
a clove of garlic	Take two cloves of garlic, crush them, and then add them to the soup.
a pane of glass	You have to be very careful when transporting panes of glass.
a blade of grass	The ant walked all the way up the blade of grass, and then all the way down again.
a pang of guilt	When I saw my brother being punished for what I'd done, I felt a pang of guilt.
a lock of hair	He kept a lock of her hair in a small tin box with his other most precious possessions.
a jar of honey	She stuck her fingers into the jar of honey, and then slowly licked them clean.
a glimmer of hope	The president gave us a glimmer of hope when he promised to look into the issue.
a sense of humour	He lacks a sense of humour, and his laughter never sounds real.
a pang of hunger	I felt a pang of hunger, and knew it must be getting close to lunchtime.
a block of ice	How long do you think it'd take for this block of ice to melt?
a scoop of ice cream	You don't really need <i>three</i> scoops of ice cream on your apple pie, do you?
a piece of information	There was an important piece of information missing from the report.
a plea of innocence	He maintained his plea of innocence, even though everyone said he was guilty.
a touch of irony	There was often a touch of irony in his voice when he spoke.
a jar of jam	If you leave a jar of jam open on the bench, the ants will find it.

partitive expression	example sentence
a glass of juice	I'd like a glass of juice, but only if the juice is freshly squeezed.
an act of kindness	A simple act of kindness to a stranger is a wonderful thing.
a piece of land	My grandfather bought this piece of land over a hundred years ago.
a peal of laughter	We heard peals of laughter coming from her bedroom.

a ray of light	As dawn broke, rays of light rose from behind the mountains.
a flash of lightning	The sky was lit up by flashes of lightning.
a work of literature	Poems, plays, novels and short stories are all works of literature.
a stroke of luck	Was finding her there a stroke of luck, or did he know she'd be there?
a piece of luggage	You can carry one small piece of luggage onto the plane.
a case of measles	Was it really a case of measles, or another disease that looked like measles?
a slice of meat	Put one slice of meat into every sandwich, with some lettuce and tomato.
a dose of medicine	I was given a dose of medicine that tasted like liquid chalk.
a bottle of milk	Every morning the milkman would leave two bottles of milk on our doorstep.
a litre of milk	How many litres of milk do we need?
a piece of music	That was one of the most beautiful pieces of music I've ever heard!
an item of news	Who decides if something becomes an item of news, or not?
a litre of oil	How much does a litre of oil cost?
a coat of paint	The house did look better after a coat of paint. But really it needed two or three coats.
a piece of paper	I wrote his number on a piece of paper and slipped it into my wallet.
a crime of passion	His lawyer said it wasn't premeditated murder, but a crime of passion.
a dab of perfume	A couple of dabs of perfume on my neck, and I was ready to go.
an abuse of power	Using falsified evidence to justify a war is a criminal abuse of power.
a shower of rain	We got caught in a shower of rain while walking to the station.
a sign of respect	In many cultures, bowing to someone is a sign of respect.

an act of rev enge	He'd harmed many people in his life, so his murder w as probably an act of rev enge.
a bowl of rice	Would you like another bowl of rice?
a grain of rice	There w asn't a single gr ain of rice left in the village.
a pile of rubbish	We found the bottles dumped in a pile of rubbish behind the factory .
a glass of rum	After drinking four or fiv e glasses of rum, I felt sick.
a pinch of salt	Add two or three pinches of salt as the w ater is coming to the boil.
a plate of seafood	How many plates of seafood should we order for the part y?
a sense of shame	I doubt he' s capable of feeling a sense of shame for what he' s done.
a minute of silence	There w as a minute of silence before the game began.
a wall of silence	The fear of punishment created a w all of silence around the truth.
a night of sleep	I think I've had about three nights of sleep in the six weeks since our baby was born.
a cloud of smok e	After the riots, y ou could see clouds of smok e rising into the sky as buildings around the cit y burned.
a fall of snow	A hea vy fall of snow left the whole landscape a glistening white.
a cak e of soap	Talk about extr avagant! She uses a new cak e of soap each time she showers.
a feeling of sorrow	There w as a feeling of sorrow in the room as ev eryone thought about what had happened.
a bowl of soup	As soon as we all sat down, she brought three big bowls of soup and three spoons.
a lump of sugar	The w as a little jar on the table full of lumps of sugar .
a spoonful of sugar	How many spoonfuls of sugar do y ou like in your tea?
a ray of sunshine	Barry said his bab y daughter w as a little r ay of sunshine in his life.
a cup of tea	Do you prefer a cup of tea with y our breakfast, or a cup of coffee?
a game of tennis	It's just a game of tennis, so I don' t know wh y you're getting so upset!
a clap of thunder	The silence w as shattered b y two sudden, loud claps of thunder .
a moment of time	It w as a moment of time that nobody who w as there will ev er forget.
a grain of truth	She said there w asn't a grain of truth in her husband' s story .

an act of vengeance	The police suspected the fire had been deliberately lit as an act of vengeance.
an outbreak of violence	After years of injustice, outbreaks of violence were becoming more frequent.
a drop of water	The drop of water slowly grew, and then it fell from the tap.
a sign of wealth	The signs of wealth that took him fifty years to earn hardly seemed worth it.
an ear of wheat	The winning photograph is a close-up of a single ear of wheat.
a shot of whiskey	As soon as he sat down at the bar, Hunter downed a shot of whiskey.
a gust of wind	A gust of wind grabbed the kite and swept it into an acrobatic loop.
a glass of wine	Our waiter knocked over two glasses of wine as he tried to set down a plate.
a pearl of wisdom	After stroking his beard and smiling, the guru dispensed a pearl of wisdom to his followers.
a block of wood	Jam some blocks of wood behind its back wheels, or the truck will roll down the hill.
a ball of wool	It's just a tangle of wool now, but it was a ball of wool before our kitten found it.
a day of work	The workers only get five or six dollars for a full day of work.
