



Partitives

A **partitive noun** is an expression used to talk about a part or a quantity of a noun. They can be used with countable nouns and help us quantify uncountable nouns.

Partitives can be general or specific.
Specific partitives are quantities that are precise whilst general partitives don't give us an exact number.

Examples of general partitives include
*some of, a bit of, a type of, a kind of, a
sort of.*

There are numerous types of specific
partitives.

Containers

These are typically portable compartments that store food and drink.

A bottle of, a can of, a glass of, a packet of

Measures

These tend to be weight, length or capacity, either metric or imperial.

A gallon of, a kilo of, a litre of, a metre of, a mile of

Abstract

These are used for abstract nouns.

An act of kindness, a fit of anger, a stroke of bad luck

Pieces

These express one small part of one object that has been separated from the rest of the object.

A pinch of salt, a sheet of newspaper, a lump of butter, a block of ice

Types / Species

These describe a specific type or species

A brand of shampoo, a make of car, a species of bird

A game of

This tends to be used with sports.

A game of tennis, a game of cricket, a game of darts, a game of volleyball

A pair of

This expresses two things together.

*A pair of socks, a pair of jeans, a pair of
tights, a pair of shoes*

Exceptions

There are numerous nouns that use a specific partitive. There are no rules or patterns.

A book of stamps, a roll of paper, a cloud of dust, a ball of string.

No matter what type of partitive you're using, it must follow the correct grammatical structure.

Indefinite
article

partitive

of

noun

The noun could be
countable or
uncountable

A cup of tea

An item of clothing

A group of children

Indefinite
article

partitive

of

noun

Countable nouns tend
to be in the plural form
unless it's a
type/species

A cup of tea
An item of clothing
A group of children

Number

partitive

of

noun

We could also use
numbers

Two bottles of water
Three groups of children