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Hi, people. The President sends a congratulatory message to a painter on the occasion of his birthday. Is it correct to say "The Armenian President congratulated the painter on his 65th birth anniversary or birthday jubilee and wished him good health and further creative success." Do I have to mention "birth" here? If you don't mention "birthday" (which is the common term) there's no way to tell what event the anniversary of which is being celebrated. (This is the first time I've encountered "birthday jubilee). I agree with sdgraham. We would say, "congratulated the painter on his 65th birthday ..." That would be enough. If you don't mention "birthday" (which is the common term) there's no way to tell what event the anniversary of which is being celebrated. (This is the first time I've encountered "birthday jubilee). I agree with sdgraham. We would say, "congratulated the painter on his 65th birthday ..." That would be enough. People, but it is not just a birthday, it is the 65th birthday, a jubilee one. Is not there a more pompous word or expression for this kind of occasions? I'm not familiar with a 'jubilee birthday'. However, if that is what you have in mind, you would probably say 'jubilee birthday'. I don't know of a word to use with significant birthdays, but perhaps someone else will. Sorry mher, but your use of "jubilee birthday" fits neither the WRD definitions nor common usage, at least in AE. Speaking as one who reached that 65th birthday some time ago, there was no name or it, much less a pompous one. As such, I don'rt see how we can help. People, but it is not just a birthday, it is the 65th birthday, a jubilee one. That may be true in your culture and/or native language. However, for most native speakers of English, " [ordinal number] birthday" really is enough, even when the ordinal number describing the birthday ends in a 5 or a 0. This fact is verified by the general nonuse of the type of word or expression you've asked about. Mher85, a jubilee is a celebration of an anniversary (a wedding anniversary, for example). Although one's birthday is technically an anniversary of the day one was born, we don't refer to it as an "anniversary" in English. I remember attending my grandparents' Golden Jubilee (their 50th wedding anniversary celebration). Some people even referred to them as "the golden jubilarians." In 2012, there was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in the U.K. (celebrating 60 years of the Queen's reign). Below are the special names for the 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 75th, and 100th anniversaries. As noted above, these do not apply to birthdays. Source: Wikipedia. Thank you, Language Hound! Like you, I also attended my grandparents' Golden Jubilee. Until now I thought that it was not a common practice among other nations to celebrate Golden Jubilees. I referred to my 25th birthday as a silver jubilee! It was a joke, though, I was just playing with the language. I actually love the idea of referring to a birthday as a jubilee, because it is such a lovely word. However, it's not done. In some countries in which I have taught I have been at a loss to know how to respond when friends there have greeted me on my birthday with very formal, and sometimes quite long, expressions. I was most impressed by the way the young guests at the sixth birthday party of a friend's grandson's here in the Czech Republic all shook his hand and gave what seemed to be a quite formal mini-speech. We British tend to be content with simply 'Happy Birthday'. My 60th was quite special. (Most people who know me were amazed that an exercise-phobic, smoking, near-alcoholic person would live that long.) Some travelled quite a way to help me celebrate, but all most said was simply 'Happy Birthday'. A few, implicitly referring to my unhealthy life style' did say 'Congratulations'. In some countries in which I have taught I have been at a loss to know how to respond when friends there have greeted me on my birthday with very formal, and sometimes quite long, expressions. I was most impressed by the way the young guests at the sixth birthday party of a friend's grandson's here in the Czech Republic all shook his hand and gave what seemed to be a quite formal mini-speech. We British tend to be content with simply 'Happy Birthday'. My 60th was quite special. (Most people who know me were amazed that an exercise-phobic, smoking, near-alcoholic person would live that long.) Some travelled quite a way to help me celebrate, but all most said was simply 'Happy Birthday'. A few, implicitly referring to my unhealthy life style' did say 'Congratulations'. The same is in Armenia. It is a common practice among Eastern peoples to raise long toasts. I would say you British do not like to talk at all. My impression is that you are quite cold and indifferent to surroundings, though I have never been to Britain and I might be wrong. I referred to my 25th birthday as a silver jubilee! It was a joke, though, I was just playing with the language. I actually love the idea of referring to a birthday as a jubilee, because it is such a lovely word. However, it's not done. In Armenia, we refer to "special" anniversaries, i.g. 25th, 40th, 50th etc., as "jubilee anniversaries." Here jubilee is an adjective which means something like "festive" or "solemn." For example, "This year Armenians are going to celebrate the 90th jubilee anniversary of the famous actor Ervand Manaryan." I understand that this is not a standard English expression, but this is how we say it in Armenian. I can confirm that we also call birthdays ending in 0 and 5 'jubilees'. We use that same word pronounced our way. We have a birthday every year and a 'jubilee' every 5 years. I have no idea how this can be expressed in English without coercing English-speakers to adopt our word, which also happens to exist in English. Perhaps we should be descriptive and say things like 'round-number birthday' or 'special 65th birthday', etc. I can confirm that we also call birthdays ending in 0 and 5 'jubilees'. We use that same word pronounced our way. We have a birthday every year and a 'jubilee' every 5 years. I have no idea how this can be expressed in English without coercing English-speakers to adopt our word, which also happens to exist in English. Perhaps we should be descriptive and say things like 'round-number birthday' or 'special 65th birthday', etc. I think that "special" is not bad, but, anyway, it does not connote the meaning of "jubilee." A 43th birthday can also be special for one reason or another. Hi guys! Can someone help me please? How is the answer when I say: "When is your birthday?" a) On the 22th of January in the year 1989; or c) On the 22th of January of the year 1989; So which preposition (in or of) should I use? And how is the correct answer? Thank you very much! Americans generally say, "January 22nd, 1989." for what day were you born would be i was born on the 22nd of January 1989 or for what is your birthday would be It's on the 22nd of January I would say "today." Seriously, however, the question is somewhat ambiguous. "Birthday" generally is just a month and day. If I specifically want to know when someone was born, I would ask "What is your date of birth." As for "guys" please note that some of our forum members are females offended by that assumption and while you are trying to be "folksy," it's not always appreciated. But you do not use any preposition Prepositions are used when people (e.g. politicians) are making speeches, and want to sound very formal. "On this 30th day of November, in the year Two Thousand Ten, we hereby establish . . . . " As your birthday is the anniversary of your birth, it is just the day and month. Your date of birth will include the full year. As for prepositions, I think you have two options for answering "When is your birthday?": 1) "It's on January 22nd." 2) "January 22nd." Giving your date of birth, I would go with Ceremoniar's suggestion- month, date, year- no introduction, no prepositions, no nothing. for what day were you born would be i was born on the 22nd of January 1989 or for what is your birthday would be It's on the 22nd of January "What is your birthday"? It sounds really strange. Hi guys! Can someone help me please? How is the answer when I say: "When is your birthday?" a) On the 22th of January in the year 1989; or c) On the 22th of January of the year 1989; So which preposition (in or of) should I use? And how is the correct answer? Thank you very much! If I use it, I will write as on the 22th January, 1989. Question should be When is your birthday? If I answer: "on the 22nd of January in the 1989" sounds a bit formal? Sounds a bit wrong Simple conversation (1). When is your birthday? Fifth of January. Simple conversation (2). When were you born? OR What is your date of birth? (I was born on the) fifth of January, nineteen ninety-four. British speakers give the day first followed by the month and the year, and write the date the same way - 4/10/2010. "Fourth of October two thousand and ten". Hermione Thanks for the 'guys' comment sdg As for "guys" please note that some of our forum members are females offended by that assumption and while you are trying to be "folksy," it's not always appreciated. Sorry for that. Next time I will write more responsibly! "on the 22nd of January in the 1989" Somewhat formal: "on the 22nd of January, 1989" Very formal: "on the 22nd of January in the year 1989" Dear friends, if I write: "My birthday is 7th December." is correct? Thanks! Yes, but it's not the only correct way to write it. EDIT: joanvillafane is only speaking for AE users in her reply below. No, Gisellee - it's not correct (in AE) - cross-post with Rover_KE My birthday is December 7th. Thanks dear British and English friends :B Yes, but it's not the only correct way to write it. EDIT: joanvillafane is only speaking for AE users in her reply below. Dear Rover, you mean that is correct despite it hasn't got the preposition "on"? Thanks for your help! I would say "today." Seriously, however, the question is somewhat ambiguous. "Birthday" generally is just a month and day. If I specifically want to know when someone was born, I would ask "What is your date of birth." As for "guys" please note that some of our forum members are females offended by that assumption and while you are trying to be "folksy," it's not always appreciated. You took the words right out of my mouth. I had the same reaction. Mahau, if the answer (duly corrected, of course, see the posts above) is "On the 22th of January of the year 1989", then the question is "What's your date of birth?" "When were you born"? Not "When's your birthday"? And thanks for defending the category, sdg. Being called a guy doesn't offend me but I find it extremely irritating. Dear friends, what happened with this: Date of birth: 30rd of August. (This is a form) Is it correct the use of ´of´ Dear friends, what happened with this: Date of birth: 30rd of August. (This is a form) Is it correct the use of ´of´ Yes, it's fine, too (except that it's 30th - short for "thirtieth" - not 30rd). First of all "the thirtieth" in numerals is written like this: 30th. And I believe several people have already said that "date of birth" usually means Month/Day/Year (AE) (or Day/Month/Year - BE). We probably wouldn't write "the 30th of August" when asked about a birthday, but it wouldn't be uncommon to say it this way - in speech, I mean. We probably wouldn't write "the 30th of August" when asked about a birthday, but it wouldn't be uncommon to say it this way - in speech, I mean. Same in BE. We would write '30/30th August' but would say "the thirtieth of August". And not just for birthdays. In official situations where you have to say your date of birth (to verify your identity on the phone, for example), it's common in American English to use numbers only: "six thirteen seventy-four" or "six thirteen of seventy-four" for June 13, 1974. for what day were you born would be i was born on the 22nd of January 1989 or for what is your birthday would be It's on the 22nd of January it should .... My birthday is on 26 January 1969! ... Sounds like simple as. MY is 05.12.1986 Welcome to the forum. When we are asked 'When is your birthday?' we don't mention the year we were born. Just the date. Only when we are asked for our date of birth do we include the year. As simple as . . . what? yes you are Right!... Hello, Do you say "on my birthday" or "at my birthday". Apparently you can say both. In which context do you use "on" and "at"? Many thanks. "On my birthday" "At my birthday" "At my birthday party" "at" is used with celebratios and weekends: Birthday isn't a celebration. Birthday party, Christmas, easter, are celebrations and use "at". On her birthday , in the morning I called her to wish ... any corrections?? people get a lot of presents on their birthdays On her birthday, in the morning, I called her to wish ... any corrections?? People get a lot of presents on their birthdays. "On her birthday" is used correctly in these examples. The sentences need proper punctuation to be correct. A side note: Rather than the successive prepositional phrases, "On her birthday, in the morning," I would say "On the morning of her birthday, I called her to wish ...." Sorry to interrupt but what do we say when it comes to marriage, on my marriage and at my marriage ceremony is it. We need a complete sentence. As you can see in post #2, we use different prepositions depending on the meaning we have in mind. Like I met her on someone's marriage. I met her at someone's marriage ceremony. We are likely to say 'wedding' instead of 'marriage ceremony'. "I met her at someone's wedding." Could you explain a little bit why at instead of on? Can I say- "She always surprises me ON my birthday" We are likely to say 'wedding' instead of 'marriage ceremony'. "I met her at someone's wedding." Why "At my birthday party" but "I met her at someone's wedding" and not 'wedding party/ceremony?' On my wedding day. A wedding is not a date. A birthday is (and the same date every year). On my wedding day. A wedding is not a date. A birthday is (and the same date every year). It seems to me like when using 'on' there always has to be 'day.' I went through another thread about 'at/on Christmas' and the answer was, 'on Christmas day' and 'at Christmas.' Please let me know if there always has to be 'day' when using 'on' in this kind of sentence. It seems to me like when using 'on' there always has to be 'day.' I went through another thread about 'at/on Christmas' and the answer was, 'on Christmas day' and 'at Christmas.' Please let me know if there always has to be 'day' when using 'on' in this kind of sentence. I think this may be correct, but the 'day' is not always said. It is sometimes understood. "I always buy my wife flowers on our anniversary." In this context, 'anniversary' is understood to mean the date you were married but in a later year. It seems to me like when using 'on' there always has to be 'day.' I went through another thread about 'at/on Christmas' and the answer was, 'on Christmas day' and 'at Christmas.' Please let me know if there always has to be 'day' when using 'on' in this kind of sentence. "on my wedding day" is correct, I think. Please look at the following sources: 1. Our car had been washed the day before, but there I was on my wedding day at six in the morning washing the car. Semone Deon King, A Rose Amongst Thorns, 2014, p 77 2. I did not want to get into an argument with her on my wedding day, so I walked away. Rose Moeng, Woman Made of Man, 2013, p 27 Hi, If today is Friday, so: Yesterday was Thursday. Tomorrow is Saturday. My question is : Can I say "Tomorrow will be Saturday" ? If not, why? Tomorrow will be my birthday. or Tomorrow is my birthday. ? Yes, you can say "Tomorrow will be Saturday", and you can also say "Tomorrow, it will be Saturday". And you can say all three: "Tomorrow will be my birthday", "Tomorrow is my birthday" and "Tomorrow, it will be my birthday". Can we say "tomorrow is going to be Friday"? You can, but it sounds unusual. You would be better off simply saying, "Tomorrow is Friday." Or (perhaps) even better (in BrEng at least!): 'it's Friday tomorrow' Thank you both Can you please explain the difference between #1 and #2 and #3? 1. Tomorrow will be my birthday 2. Tomorrow is going to be my birthday 3. Tomorrow is my birthday The difference is that #3 is the way we would normally say it. Unless you have some particular (and very constrained) context in mind that gives you a reason to use either of the others, they would sound odd. Tomorrow is going to be my birthday after I go to the registrar's office today to get my birth certificate changed. Tomorrow is going to be my birthday after I go to the registrar's office today to get my birth certificate changed. Yes, that's a good example of a context that would make sense of one of the other options. The difference is that #3 is the way we would normally say it. Unless you have some particular (and very constrained) context in mind that gives you a reason to use either of the others, they would sound odd. Tomorrow is going to be my birthday after I go to the registrar's office today to get my birth certificate changed. Thank you both very much! In the sentences below is just #1 correct? 1. I'm 50 tomorrow 2. I'll be 60 tomorrow 3. I'm going to be 50 tomorrow Thank you both very much! In the sentences below is just #1 correct? 1. I'm 50 tomorrow 2. I'll be 60 tomorrow 3. I'm going to be 50 tomorrow Well... all three are technically correct. Idiomatically though, I'd say that #1 is the most correct. Thank you both very much! In the sentences below is just #1 correct? 1. I'm 50 tomorrow 2. I'll be 60 tomorrow 3. I'm going to be 50 tomorrow They are all correct. However, there's a major difference between the two examples. Today, I am not 50. Tomorrow, I will be 50. My age is changing. Today, my birthday is May 2. Tomorrow, my birthday is still May 2. My birthday is not changing (unless I go to the registrar's office and change it). Tomorrow is going to be my birthday after I go to the registrar's office today to get my birth certificate changed. I hope somebody will be able to explain to me what this means. "Tomorrow is my birthday" reflects the way we express facts. Well... all three are technically correct. Idiomatically though, I'd say that #1 is the most correct. Thanks a lot They are all correct. However, there's a major difference between the two examples. Today, I am not 50. Tomorrow, I will be 50. My age is changing. Today, my birthday is May 2. Tomorrow, my birthday is still May 2. My birthday is not changing (unless I go to the registrar's office and change it). Thanks a lot for the good explanation I hope somebody will be able to explain to me what this means. "Tomorrow is my birthday" reflects the way we express facts. Right now, tomorrow is not my birthday. I'm having my official date of birth changed to tomorrow today. Tomorrow is going to be (a planned future event, not a fact) my birthday. Right now, tomorrow is not my birthday. I'm having my official date of birth changed to tomorrow today. Tomorrow is going to be (a planned future event, not a fact) my birthday. Can you please explain the use of "will" and "going to" in the sentences below since they state facts and the present simple is sufficient? (1) Tomorrow is going to be Sunday. (2)Tomorrow is Sunday. (3)Tomorrow will be Sunday. Can you please explain the use of "will" and "going to" in the sentences below since they state facts and the present simple is sufficient? (1) Tomorrow is going to be Sunday. (2)Tomorrow is Sunday. (3)Tomorrow will be Sunday. No: you'd need to ask the people who spoke or wrote the sentences. Seriously: while (1) is the least common variant, as they stand they all express the same idea, and it's a feature of English (and probably most other languages, too) that there are often different ways of expressing things. That's particularly true of tenses, and it's often simply no more than the personal preference of the speaker/author, despite what grammar textbooks try and tell you. No: you'd need to ask the people who spoke or wrote the sentences. Seriously: while (1) is the least common variant, as they stand they all express the same idea, and it's a feature of English (and probably most other languages, too) that there are often different ways of expressing things. That's particularly true of tenses, and it's often simply no more than the personal preference of the speaker/author, despite what grammar textbooks try and tell you. Not if it's Friday today! Thank you both very much Why is "going to" incorrect? "tomorrow is going to be Saturday"? It's not incorrect, but as DonnyB pointed out, it's the least common of your three options.. If it's not grammatically incorrect, then there is no "grammatical reason." It's just not what we normally say. If it's not grammatically incorrect, then there is no "grammatical reason." It's just not what we normally say. Why is "I'm going to be 50 tomorrow" common but this is uncommon "Tomorrow is going to be my birthday"? They are similar Caveat: All of the uses of the three forms overlap. Some grammars will divide them into exact categories but it's not true. The sentence "X is going to be Y" is often used when X is not Y right now, but will be Y in the future. I am going to be a teacher. I am not a teacher now but I will be a teacher in the future (after I get a degree in teaching). That's the basis for my example above. Tomorrow (May 4) is not my birthday now (as of now) but tomorrow (May 4) will be my birthday in the future (after I have my birth certificate altered). "I'm going to be 50 tomorrow" = I am not 50 now but I will be 50 tomorrow. My age changes. "Tomorrow is going to be my birthday" = Tomorrow is not my birthday now but tomorrow will be my birthday tomorrow. My birthday changes. "Tomorrow will be my birthday" = May 4 is my birthday and tomorrow it will by May 4. Time passes and May 4 arrives. Caveat: All of the uses of the three forms overlap. Some grammars will divide them into exact categories but it's not true. The sentence "X is going to be Y" is often used when X is not Y right now, but will be Y in the future. I am going to be a teacher. I am not a teacher now but I will be a teacher in the future (after I get a degree in teaching). That's the basis for my example above. Tomorrow (May 4) is not my birthday now (as of now) but tomorrow (May 4) will be my birthday in the future (after I have my birth certificate altered). "I'm going to be 50 tomorrow" = I am not 50 now but I will be 50 tomorrow. My age changes. "Tomorrow is going to be my birthday" = Tomorrow is not my birthday now but tomorrow will be my birthday tomorrow. My birthday changes. "Tomorrow will be my birthday" = May 4 is my birthday and tomorrow it will by May 4. Time passes and May 4 arrives. Thanks a lot Myridon for you very good explanations I thought "I'm going to be 50 tomorrow" means "I intend to be 50 tomorrow" Hi. But why at school they teach us this way Yesterday was Saturday Today is Sunday Tomorrow will be Monday I read the thread I understood the concept. Can teachers say tomorrow is Monday Thanks Hi. But why at school they teach us this way Yesterday was Saturday Today is Sunday Tomorrow will be Monday I read the thread I understood the concept. Can teachers say tomorrow is Monday Thanks Quite possibly they are trying to teach you the verb "to be" as present, past and future. This does not mean that there are no other ways to express the same thing. Tomorrow is Monday, as it happens. 'It's my birthday tomorrow'; 'Tomorrow is our fiftieth wedding anniversary'; 'Is it green bin day tomorrow?' etc. etc. We constantly use the present tense where the future is feasible and perhaps even theoretically required. 'Is it correct to say,"Tomorrow is Tom's birthday party" ?' Perfectly OK, in the right context*; so is 'It's Tom's birthday party tomorrow'. *A : Shall we book a table at the Green Admiral tomorrow night? B : Tomorrow is Tom's birthday party - have you forgotten? . or B : We can't - it's Tom's birthday party tomorrow. Slight change of emphasis - both possible here. Last edited: Aug 29, 2024 A Part of Conversation Questions for the ESL Classroom. How are birthdays celebrated in your country? What are some birthday traditions you know of from other countries? How do you like to celebrate your birthday? What is your best birthday memory? What is your worst birthday memory? Have you ever had a surprise birthday party for yourself or someone else? What is the best birthday gift you have ever received? What is the worst birthday gift you have ever received? What are some things you like to do for your birthday? When is your birthday? Did your parents give you birthday parties when you were a child? In your opinion, What is the best time of year to have a birthday? How do people you know celebrate turning 40? Do you think getting older (40, 50, 60) is depressing for people, or a happy occasion? What do you think is the best age? Do you like going to work on your birthday? Did you like going to school on your birthday when you were a child? Have you ever had a surprise party? Whose birthday do you always remember? Among your close friends and relatives, whose birthday is coming up next? About how many birthday gifts or cards do you send or give to people each year? Have you ever forgotten someone's birthday that you should have remembered? Do you know any famous people's birthdays? (Are any the same as yours?) Do you know of any big events that happened the year you were born? What is the best birthday gift you have ever received? What is the best birthday gift you have ever given? What is the worst birthday gift you have ever received? What is the worst birthday gift you have ever given? If you are in your teen years, tell how old you will be in twenty years time and say whether you look forward to that age or does it scare you. If you could celebrate your own birthday the way you wanted, what would you do? Where would you like to go? How many people would you invite? Would you rather celebrate your birthday with just your relatives or just your friends? Do you remember what gifts you received on your last birthday? What would you like to get most for your birthday this year? Is the cost of a present important to you? What kind of gift do you usually prepare for your friend's birthday? Your mother's? What about for other family members? Which is a better present, a well-chosen gift or money? Are birthdays really important? How do you celebrate your birthday? If you can think of another good question for this list, please add it. Thanks to Belinda who suggested this topic and contributed the first 10 questions in April 2008. Copyright © 1997-2010 by The Internet TESL Journal Hello, I'd like to wish someone happy birthday. Should I say: (i) Look whose birthday it is; or (ii) Look who's birthday it is Thanks ! "Who's" is a contraction of "who is" or "who has". "Whose" is the possessive form of "who". I agree with those answers. I do think the "who's" version is quite common and follows the same "logic" as "it's" - meaning belonging to who or it, that some people extend from other 's possessives, in a form of regularization. Nevertheless, even if it might be logical (not a common description of English) both "who's" and "it's" as possessives are "incorrect" today! Last edited: Oct 15, 2010 Look whose Birthday it is today! Should I say "My birthday is Jan. 1" or "My birthday is on Jan. 1"? Thanks! If someone asks, "When is your birthday?", the standard reply is "My birthday is Jan. 1." On the other hand, if someone asks about your birthday after the birthday is over, it is common to say, "My birthday was on Jan. 1." I could say "My birthday is the eighth of August", or "My birthday is on the eighth of August", or "My birthday is August the eighth" or "My birthday is on August the eighth". All four are possible in BE and in Australia. I would like to know whether cake is considered countable or uncountable. Do you eat a cake, or a piece of cake? llibertat Yep coincido con srsh. If you eat a cake that would mean that you are eating the whole thing. But if you eat a piece of the cake that means that you are eating a part of it. You can eat 2 pieces of cake, 3 pieces of cake, 4 pieces of cake. etc. hasta ad infinitum...o hasta que te mueres..jeje ¿Me sigues llibertat? I have found somewhere else that cake can work as both countable and uncountable, depending on what the speaker is referring to. Cake is uncountable when is is considered as the mass or dough. Thanks for your help. llibertat I have found somewhere else that cake can work as both countable and uncountable, depending on what the speaker is referring to. Cake is uncountable when is is considered as the mass or dough. Thanks for your help. llibertat Now you have the complete picture. The word is both countable and uncountable. For example: Last night, I baked two cakes. (+count) We often eat cake after supper. (-count) I'm not completely sure what you mean when you say "considered as the mass or dough," but your are, nonetheless, correct in saying that, depending on the use, this word can fall into either category. Regards, Don When a cake is made from scratch, the ingredients are mixed to obtain what I would call a mass or a dough. Probably there is a specific word to define this better, but I don't know it. . llibertat Hola, what you called "dough" in the case of a cake is called "batter", if I'm not mistaken. Gisele. batter is the mix one would put on fish, vegetables or whatever before deep frying, or the mix made to make pancakes. Cake mix is ..... cake mix, although with some recipes it may be made into a dough (fairly thick solid mass) before liquid is added. Dough is also the name for the mixture of ingredients, for bread countable. you can say 2 cakes, three cakes, etc. you can eat a WHOLE cake, sound s weird, but you can. If you mean a portion, then you say a piece. Is it ok to say a slice of cake? :S batter is the mix one would put on fish, vegetables or whatever before deep frying, or the mix made to make pancakes. Cake mix is ..... cake mix, although with some recipes it may be made into a dough (fairly thick solid mass) before liquid is added. Dough is also the name for the mixture of ingredients, for bread Cake batter is correct. A cake mix comes from a box, pre-made. If you make a cake from scratch, it is cake batter. Better butter makes better batter! countable. you can say 2 cakes, three cakes, etc. you can eat a WHOLE cake, sound s weird, but you can. If you mean a portion, then you say a piece. Is it ok to say a slice of cake? : Cake is both countable and non. You eat cake. You eat a slice of cake. You eat 3 pieces of cake (or slices). We have cake and icecream at birthday parties. Saludos I do believe, batter for a cke mix is an american English term, not British English, batter is for pancakes (masa) and for frying (para rebozar) British English for cake mix is 'cake mixture'. Cake batter is correct. A cake mix comes from a box, pre-made. If you make a cake from scratch, it is cake batter. Better butter makes better batter! Cake is both countable and non. You eat cake. You eat a slice of cake. You eat 3 pieces of cake (or slices). We have cake and icecream at birthday parties. Saludos gracias Jacinta I think cake is both, countable and uncountable. If you refer to the whole cake it's countable (one cake, two cakes, ten cakes). Then if you just want to refer to a part of it, it's uncountable, because the people who are going to eat it have to share the whole cake. So you say: a piece/portion of cake, two pieces/portions of cake, etc. I just want to make it clear that when I say that cake can be uncountable, the main example is: I eat cake, then by adding a piece/portion of we "transform" cake into a countable noun. Surely any item of food is uncountable under the cake examples given in this thread? Last night, I made two cakes/sausages/pies... We often eat cake/sausage/pie after dinner... UNCOUNTABLE: Could I have some cake please? How much would you like? COUNTABLE: Just one piece, thanks, and make it small, I'm on a diet... Or: Two pieces, for me and my husband, thanks. Surely any item of food is uncountable under the cake examples given in this thread? Last night, I made two cakes/sausages/pies... We often eat cake/sausage/pie after dinner... Hmmmm. You are making me think, MrHarry. How about "nuts"? or "crackers"? You would not say "We often eat nut/cracker?" or "May I have some nut?" UNCOUNTABLE: Could I have some cake please? How much would you like? COUNTABLE: Just one piece, thanks, and make it small, I'm on a diet... Or: Two pieces, for me and my husband, thanks. Ah, no, there is a fundamental mistake being made here. Your uncountable example is fine. But in "two pieces of cake" it is the pieces that are countable, not the cake. The example to illustrate that cake can also be countable must use two cakes, not two pieces of cake. By way of additional illustration: flour in its normal use is an uncountable noun. But you may ask for two XX of flour (cups, tablespoons, handfuls, etc.) That does not change flour in that instance to countable. It is not "give me two flours". You're absolutely right, cubaMania, that second one was a horrible example. But you could go to a store and ask for two chocolate cakes for your twins' b-days. And that would make cake both countable and uncountable. In the case of nuts or crackers, you would always use the words in plural, unless you're talking about just one: My mom makes sweets and pastries, try this one it's a chocolate covered nut. You can also try these bombons, their filled with nuts. Can I have a cracker with tuna? I'm really hungry, but all I have to eat are crackers. Do you want some too or should we go to the store and get chocolate? That's the best I can do, now I gotta go get chocolate... Yes, bumblecat, no question about it: cake can be either countable and uncountable. You can buy one, two or three cakes, etc., or you can have some cake. So far we have overlooked THE most famous quotation of all, by Marie Antionette !! When her courtiers pointed out that the poor people had nothing to eat, not even bread, she was believed to have said .... "Let them eat cake!!!" uncountable: I ate cake countable: I ate two cakes (I really ate 2 whole cakes although it's a lot, it can happen!) I ate a piece of cake/ 3 pieces of cake (cake is uncountable but "a piece of" transforms it in countable) "cake" cuando refieres al concepto abstracto de un casi tipo de pan no es contable. Pero, cuando refieres a una porcion especifica, si es un(os) "cake" entero(s) o una(s) pieza(s) de este "cake", es contable. Es sencillo, de verdad. es exactamente como lo explica "starkeclipse", coincido en que tendriamos que dejar de dar vueltas sobre el asunto, porque lo único que hacemos es complicarnos más! It's exactly as "starkeclipse" explains it. I agree we shoul stop discussing it because the only thing we're doing is to complicate it more than what it really is! "cake" cuando refieres al concepto abstracto de un casi tipo de pan no es contable. Pero, cuando refieres a una porcion especifica, si es un(os) "cake" entero(s) o una(s) pieza(s) de este "cake", es contable. Es sencillo, de verdad. In fact, no. Here is the example from britishcouncil.org in their LearnEnglishCentral: You cannot use a/an before an uncountable noun. Instead, you can use a measurement and the word of: A breath of air A grain of sand A block of ice A lot of wisdom This, of course, is exactly analogous to the use of "cake" as an uncountable noun in "two pieces of cake". You are not counting cakes, you are counting pieces. Here "cake" is singular and uncountable (i.e. used in its uncountable sense). You can count breaths but not air (take two breaths of air, please) because air is uncountable, hence it is expressed in singular with no 's'. You can count grains but you cannot count sand. You can count blocks but you cannot count ice. and so on... Putting a "measurement and the word of" in front of an uncountable noun does not convert it to countable. If that is not enough documentation, here it is from about.com's ESL Guide to Countable and Uncountable Nouns: Here are some more common uncountable food types with their container / quantity expressions: liquids (water, beer, wine, etc.) - a glass, a bottle, a jug of water, etc. cheese - a slice, a chunk, a piece of cheese meat - a piece, a slice, a pound of meat butter - a bar of butter ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard - a bottle of, a tube of ketchup, etc. This is how it is in English. "Crackers" and "nuts" can be used for the uncountable forms. "All through the party season we ate only crackers, nuts, sausage, cake, and cheese." Cheese can be countable, but it's relatively uncommon, because "a cheese" is the whole wheel of cheese, and most people don't deal in such quantities. It's like a cake or a sausage, the unit as it is manufactured is the countable form. For cake, cheese, and sausage we don't need to pluralize to use them uncountably. It's idiomatic which things require pluralization to make them uncountable. Suppose you are at a party and there are lots of cakes of different types. If you want to say that you have eaten a little of cake A and a little of cake B, is it OK to say "I have eaten two cakes" ? I mean, you don't want to say that you have eaten two whole cakes, you have just tried a piece of each one. "Cake" is a countable noun, but if you want to eat part of the cake, and not the whole thing, you need to quantify it: "a piece of cake." She baked three cakes. She ate three pieces of cake. "Cake" is a countable noun, but if you want to eat part of the cake, and not the whole thing, you need to quantify it: "a piece of cake." She baked three cakes. She ate three pieces of the same cake. Suppose you are at a party and there are lots of cakes of different types. If you want to say that you have eaten a little of cake A and a little of cake B, is it OK to say "I have eaten two cakes" ? I mean, you don't want to say that you have eaten two whole cakes, you have just tried a piece of each one. She tried two cakes. She tasted two cakes. Thanks, elbaciyelmo! The answer to my question was so simple... it's implicit in the act of tasting a cake to try only a piece. Shame on me it's implicit in the act of tasting a cake to try only a piece. No not exactly. Cake has countable and uncountable uses. It's not strictly either. It's one of those nouns that goes both way depending on context. She baked some (2, 100, a few, several) cakes. countable We ate some (a little, a bunch, tons, loads and loads of) cake. uncountable. Hmm yes, that worked out well for her now didn't it batter is the mix one would put on fish, vegetables or whatever before deep frying, or the mix made to make pancakes. Cake mix is ..... cake mix, although with some recipes it may be made into a dough (fairly thick solid mass) before liquid is added. Dough is also the name for the mixture of ingredients, for bread Dough is a stiff mixture made from a starch, liquid, and may include other ingredients, that can be shaped, as in cookie dough, or that contains yeast and must be kneaded to allow it to rise as in bread dough.. Batter contains more liquid and cannot be shaped and usually can be poured, as cake or pancake batter. If a worked in a bakery, and I were the chef, and I have sold three cakes, I would say: I sold three cakes. Am I right? And the word "cake" would take its plural form, wouldn't it? If a worked in a bakery, and I were the chef, and I have sold three cakes, I would say: I sold three cakes. Am I right? And the word "cake" would take its plural form, wouldn't it? Yes, but when a customer takes the cake home, each child would ask for a slice of cake, not a cake, unless the cake was baked in individual servings, like a doughnut. So cake is definitely countable, until it comes time to eat it. Then it depends on the size of the cake - i.e., is it meant to be shared or is it baked in individual servings. Cake es como cheese, generalmente noncount, pero puede decirse "two cakes" en ciertos contextos específicos. Si digo "dos quesos", ¿en qué se pensaría? i have another question related to uncountable nouns...If I had to say to a customer that there is mayonnaise on the table, what should I say? THE mayonnaise is on the table. Mayonnaise is on the table. And if the bottle of mayonnaise was on the shelf?? THE mayonnaise is on that shelf, it is next to THE ketchup. Mayonnaise is on that shelf, it is next to ketchup. Uncountable nouns do not take the definite article THE. I have another question related to uncountable nouns...If I had to say to a customer that there is mayonnaise on the table, what should I say? THE mayonnaise is on the table. Mayonnaise is on the table. And if the bottle of mayonnaise was on the shelf?? THE mayonnaise is on that shelf; it is next to THE ketchup. Mayonnaise is on that shelf, it is next to ketchup. Uncountable nouns do not take the definite article THE. This last statement is false. The definite article is compatible with both countable and uncountable common nouns. All of these mayonnaise and ketchup sentences are meaningful, but "mayonnaise" and "ketchup" with no determiner do not refer to particular bottles of the condiments. "Mayonnaise is on that shelf", for example, could mean that mayonnaise has been spilled on that shelf or that that shelf is where we keep any bottles of mayonnaise we might have. thanks for the correction...but help me checking the following case: Client: Where is the mayonnaise? Where is the ketchup? Waiter: The mayonnaise in on the table. The ketchup is on the counter. Did I use the article THE correctly? thanks for the correction...but help me checking the following case: Client: Where is the mayonnaise? Where is the ketchup? Waiter: The mayonnaise in on the table. The ketchup is on the counter. Did I use the article THE correctly? Yes. If I were a waiter, would it be correct to say: Where is the ketchup? It is on that table next to the mayonnaise? Where is the mustard? It is next to the ketchup? The following sentence appeared on a web page: Massage the mayonnaise into your scalp and then work it through your hair to .. If I had to grade above sentence, I would cross out the word "the". Am I right? On that webpage (or at least the web page that I saw), "mayonnaise" has already been mentioned, so the noun is now identifiable and thus takes the definite article. Cheers thanks..Gracias los sustantivos incontables me están dando dolor de cabeza. thanks..Gracias los sustantivos incontables me están dando dolor de cabeza. En realidad es una de las cosas que más se parece al español: - Oye, alcánzame los aderezos. - Bueno, pero no le pongas mucho. Madre al mozo: - Quiero una coca cola por favor. Hijo a la madre: - Mamá, ¿me sirves un poco de coca cola por favor? - Me compre una torta así de grande, y comí tanta torta que me empaché. - ¿Que estás cocinando? - Cazuela de pollo. - ¿Tenías pollo? - Sí, ayer compré dos pollos. My friends have twins. At their party do I wish them "happy birthday" or "happy birthdays"? I'd like to wish you guys happy birthdays! I'd like to wish you guys a happy birthday! (They're only six years old; I can probably get away with either. Of course if they grow up to be pedants it would be useful to get this right.) As they are twins, I would wish them a happy birthday. They had one birth day. In a slightly more complicated situation, where there are several kids in the group who have birthdays in the week, we wish happy birthday (singular) to Brenda, Charlie, Deirdre and Ed - even if their birthdays are on separate days. That's not as a result of deep thought, of course. It's just the way we do it Maybe I should try saying "birthdays" instead, just to see the reaction. Simple solution: add "each". I would like to wish each of you a happy birthday. Happy birthday to each of you! If the birthdays are on the same day,then it should be singular.If you want to distinguish them, say "Happy birthday, Taylor! Happy birthday, Tyler!" Thanks for the replies. It's a question with no real weight, but it was driving me nuts. Regards, Packard Hello, In German we refer to a birthday that has a "0" at the end as a "round" birthday. For example a 20th or 50th birthday. Is there a similar term in English? Thank you! We call them "big O's", but usually specify which one, such as: "He's coming up to the big four-oh". There's no exact equivalent, no. We talk about "big birthdays" which tend to mean important birthdays, such as 21, and many larger numbers ending in 0 (40, 50, 60, 70 etc). 10 and 20 aren't big birthdays though. Multiples of 10 (or 100 or 1000) are called 'round numbers', but that's not particularly used for birthdays.