Seminar 1B – Tasks / Worksheet 1

I. QUESTIONS (to answer after you have studied the seminar handout carefully)

1. Explain the main differences between proper and common nouns, give examples illustrating the differences and supporting your explanation.

2. What are the characteristic features of countable and uncountable nouns, give examples.

3. What kinds of determiners can be used with a countable noun in the singular? Do we need a determiner with a singular countable noun or not?

4. Some nouns can be both countable and uncountable, give an example and explain the difference.

5. Some nouns are normally uncountable (e.g. wine, coffee). In what context are they used as countable, give examples and explain them.

6. What are the roles of 'partitives'? What is the pattern of a phrase with 'a partitive'?

7. We differentiate two main types of 'partition'. Give examples.

8. The quantity 'partitives' are of two kinds. Which ones? Give examples.

II. PRACTICE

If you are not sure, consult either the seminar handout or a good monolingual dictionary or both!

1. Are the following nouns concrete or abstract, countable or uncountable? Write a short sentence which makes it clear how to use these words:

1. sailor
2. grass
3. chair
4. brick
5. chicken
6. cake
7. stone
8. gossip
9. warmth
10. homework

2. Are the following sentences right or wrong? Correct the wrong ones:

1. The camping is very popular in the States.
2. No, thanks. I don't like cake.
3. She was a beauty in her youth.
4. I will give you my address. Do you have a paper?
5. What are you fond of? – I like the music and dancing.
6. She will give a talk on a Chinese art.
7. That's foolish talk.
8. (In a restaurant) Three beers, please.
9. How many luggages have you got? – Just this two bags.
10. I asked the doctor for an advice.
11. I had a strange experience the other day while I was going home late at night.
12. I have no informations concerning the meeting.

3. Use the following words in sentences illustrating their countable and uncountable usage:

1. experience C = _____
              U = _____

2. hair C = _____
         U = _____

3. chocolate C = _____

         U = _____

4. time   C = _____

         U = _____

4. Fill in the nouns that collocate (=are typically used) with the following 'partitives':

1. a speck of _____
2. a sip of _____
3. a flash of _____
4. a burst of _____
5. a fit of _____
6. a jar of _____
7. a pinch of _____
8. a wisp of _____
9. a mug of _____
10. a drop of _____
11. a pile of _____
12. a dash of _____
13. a spoonful of _____
14. a bar of _____

5. Fill in the appropriate 'partitives':

1. a _____ of cattle
2. a _____ of sugar
3. a _____ of rice / sand
4. a _____ of sheep
5. a _____ of scissors
6. an _____ of truth
7. a _____ of grass
8. a _____ of thunder
9. a _____ of luck
10. a _____ of sleep
11. a _____ of bees
12. a _____ of keys
13. a _____ of insect
14. a _____ of calm