

**Half a/the, half** ★★

**Half** = ½, or 50%. Pronunciation: /ha:f/ (the *l* is silent)

Here are three ways we use **half**.

1 **Half a/the** + noun



**“Take half a cup of flour, half a dozen eggs, half a pint of milk, and...”**

*half an hour*  
*half the time*

*half the money*  
*half the work*

*half the way*  
*half an inch*

2 **Half** + adjective



**“He’s half asleep!”**

*half alive*  
*half dead*

*half awake*  
*half asleep*

*half done*  
*half-baked*

3 **Half** as part of a noun



**“He’s our half-brother!”**

*half board* (accommodation with two meals)  
*half-time* (interval in a game)  
*half-sister*  
*halfway*

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**Quick check**

Fill the blanks with *a*, *an*, *the* or  $\emptyset$  (nothing):

- 1 This hotel can offer half \_\_\_\_\_ board or full board.
- 2 The spider was about half \_\_\_\_\_ inch long.
- 3 He staggered from the desert looking half \_\_\_\_\_ dead.
- 4 The recipe takes about half \_\_\_\_\_ pint of milk.
- 5 We spent about half \_\_\_\_\_ time on fractions, and the other half on percentages.

