Common Uncountable Nouns

Some nouns in English are uncountable, i.e. they refer to things which cannot be counted separately. We cannot often use the indefinite article (a/an) and to make an uncountable noun countable, we often use the construction:

A glass of water

a/an + noun container + of + uncountable noun

Examples of quantifying uncountable nouns:
- water - a bottle of water
- equipment - a piece of equipment
- cheese - a slice of cheese

All of these nouns are uncountable nouns in most contexts:

advice  *hope (e.g. There was never a hope)
air       rain
alcohol   research
art       rice
beef      sadness
blood     salt
butter    sand
cheese    shopping
chewing gum silver
coffee    snow
confusion space
cotton    speed
education steam
Electricity sugar
entertainment sunshine
teacher
experience tea
fiction
flour
food
forgiveness
fresh air
furniture
gold
Gossip (Except when talking about people who are gossiping)
grass

ground
happiness
*history (e.g. He has a history)

homework
honey

*s Sometimes accompanied by an article