

but·ter¹ S2

/ˈbʌtə \$ -ər/

noun [uncountable]

1 a solid yellow food made from milk or cream that you spread on bread or use in cooking

→ [BREAD-AND-BUTTER](#)

2 **butter wouldn't melt in somebody's mouth** PRETEND

used to say that someone seems to be very kind and sincere but is not really

— **buttery** **adjective**

COLLOCATIONSense 1

adjectives

salted/unsalted (= with or without salt in it) *Unsalted butter is better for baking.* |

Most butter is slightly salted.

melted butter (= heated until it is liquid) *Brush the pastry with a little melted butter.*

phrases

a pat of butter (= a small flat piece) *Breakfast was a small roll and a pat of butter.*

a knob of butter (= a small round piece) *Add a knob of butter to the meat juices in the pan.*

a lump of butter *He served himself a big lump of butter.*

verbs

spread butter on something *Lee was spreading butter on his toast.*

spread something with butter *Spread the warm crumpets with butter.*

melt butter *Melt the butter and mix it with the other ingredients.*

soften butter *First soften the butter in a warm place.*

Word origin**Language:** Old English**Origin:** *butere*, from Latin *butyrum*, from Greek *boutyron*, from *bous* 'cow' + *tyros* 'cheese'

butter²

verb

[transitive]

to spread butter on something:

buttered toast

butter somebody ↔ up

phrasal verb

(informal) PRAISE to say nice things to someone so that they will do what you want:

Don't think you can butter me up that easily.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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