

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Countable Nouns

Countable nouns are things we can count. For example, you can count the number of hats you have. Look at these statements:

My brother has **a** hat.

My sister has **two** hats.

My friend has **three** hats.

Other examples of countable nouns:

Things	People
book, table, computer, banana, shirt, television, house, dollars	man, woman, child, friend, sister, uncle, teacher, doctor, carpenter

You can add “s” to a countable noun to make it plural. For example, we have one table and two tables.

Uncountable Nouns

Uncountable nouns are things that we cannot count, or cannot divide into separate parts. For example, you cannot count the flour or rice you have in a container.

Other examples of uncountable nouns:

Liquids and Foods	Ideas and Concepts	Information	Categories
water, butter, rice, salt, milk, juice, money	love, fun, work, money, peace, safety	advice, information, news, knowledge	music, furniture, equipment, jewelry, meat

Never add “s” to uncountable nouns to make them plural. For example, look at statements:

1. Incorrect statement: I need some informations about the project.
2. Correct statement: I need some information about the project.

You can use other words to help quantify uncountable nouns. Examples:

1. Incorrect statement: Martha bought **three** wines from the store.
2. Correct statement: Martha bought **three bottles of** wine from the store.

Using “many”, “few”, and “a lot of”

With countable nouns, we use many, few, and a lot of. Examples:

1. How **many** glasses of water do you drink every day?
2. There are too **many** people in the room.
3. I have a **few** questions about the lesson.
4. I eat **a lot of** vegetables.

Using “much”, “little”, and “a lot of”

With uncountable nouns, we use much, little and a lot of. Examples:

1. How **much** water do you drink every day?
2. He put too **much** salt in the soup.
3. We have too **little** information to make a decision.
4. She has **a lot of** experience in this type of work.

Using “some”, “any”, “no”, “enough”, “plenty of”, and “lots of”

We can use some, any, no, enough, plenty of, and lots of with both uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns. Examples:

1. Can I borrow **some** of your books?
2. Would you like to listen to **some** music?
3. I don't have **any** ideas.
4. I don't have **any** money.
5. There are **no** chairs in the living room.
6. There's **no** furniture in the living room.

Summary: Countable nouns are things we can count and uncountable nouns are things that we cannot count.

Some examples are listed below.

Countable Nouns	Uncountable Nouns
Coin/coins, dollar/dollars	Money
Song and songs	Music
Table and tables	Furniture
Bottle and glass	Water and wine
Report and reports	Information
Job and jobs	Work