

Grammar Ex. > Countable and Uncountable Nouns

COUNTABLE NOUNS	UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS
1. They can be counted with numbers (<i>one, two, five, 24, 39, and so on.</i>)	1. They cannot be considered as separate units nor counted with numbers.
2. They can be used with the indefinite articles a/an , or with the plural form of the noun.	2. They cannot take the indefinite articles a/an , or plural forms.
3. They can be abstract or concrete (e.g.: <u>a conversation</u> , <u>an emergency</u> , <u>aspirations</u> , <u>a phone</u> , <u>three people</u> .)	3. They are usually substances, collective categories of things, or ideas (e.g.: <u>wood</u> , <u>smoke</u> , <u>air</u> , <u>water</u> , <u>furniture</u> , <u>homework</u> , <u>luggage</u> , <u>love</u> , <u>knowledge</u> , <u>intelligence</u> , <u>arrogance</u>)
4. Since countable nouns can be either singular or plural , it is important to use the correct subject-verb agreement (e.g.: <u>my brother is</u> back from college; <u>dogs wag</u> their tails.)	4. Uncountable nouns are grammatically singular , so they must take singular forms of their verbs (e.g.: <u>the furniture in my living room is</u> old; <u>the news is</u> good.)
5. Countable nouns can be plural by adding -s ; -es ; -ies ; -ves or their irregular forms (e.g.: <u>cats</u> ; <u>places</u> ; <u>zoos</u> ; <u>boxes</u> ; <u>beaches</u> ; <u>heroes</u> ; <u>potatoes</u> ; <u>berries</u> ; <u>countries</u> ; <u>knives</u> ; <u>wolves</u> ; <u>man</u> > <u>men</u> ; <u>person</u> > <u>people</u> ; <u>child</u> > <u>children</u> ; <u>fish</u> > <u>fish</u>)	5. You can make an uncountable noun countable or plural by adding a specific measure (e.g.: <u>a pair of</u> jeans; <u>two kilos of</u> meat; <u>a piece of</u> advice/homework/news; <u>five slices of</u> bread.)
6. Both nouns accept the use of the words some or a lot of / lots of (in affirmative sentences), and the use of any – many – much (in negative and interrogative sentences) - My mom can give us some <u>advice</u>. (uncountable) - I brought some <u>markers</u> to complete the activity. (countable) - Caroline did not do any <u>homework</u>. (uncountable) - Do you have any <u>question</u>? (countable) - I do not have much <u>time</u>. (uncountable) - There aren't many <u>people</u> studying geology. (countable) Exception: You can use some in questions to offer, ask for, or suggest something. - Would you like to have some tea? - Can I order some more snacks? - Why don't we keep some leftovers for tomorrow?	
7. You can use the following expressions to modify the quantity or amount of something.	7. You can use the following expressions to modify the quantity or amount of something.
- many (a large quantity of something); too many (in excess); a few (a small positive quantity); few (not enough); fewer	- much (a large quantity of something); too much (in excess); a little (a small positive quantity); little (not enough); less



Authored by Andrés Barón-Ávila
MA Education and Technology – UCL – IOE



LIVEWORKSHEETS