Read this brief explanation of countable and uncountable nouns and then do the activities.

Many nouns can be used as countable or uncountable nouns, usually with a difference in meaning. Compare:

Countable	*Uncountable*
□ Did you hear a **noise** just now? (= a specific noise)	□ I can't work here. There's too much **noise**. (*not* too many noises)
□ I bought a **paper** to read. (= a newspaper)	□ I need some **paper** to write on. (= material for writing on)
□ There's a **hair** in my soup! (= one single hair)	□ You've got very long **hair**. (*not* hairs) (= all the hair on your head)
□ You can stay with us. There is a spare **room**. (= a room in a house)	□ You can't sit here. There isn't **room**. (= space)
□ I had some interesting **experiences** while I was travelling. (= things that happened to me)	□ They offered me the job because I had a lot of **experience**. (*not* experiences)
□ Enjoy your trip. Have a good **time**!	□ I can't wait. I haven't got **time**.

Coffee/tea/juice/beer etc. (drinks) are normally uncountable:

□ I don't like **coffee** very much.

But you can say **a coffee** (= a cup of coffee), **two coffees** (= two cups) etc. :

□ **Two** coffees and **an orange juice**, please.

Compare these countable and uncountable nouns:

Countable	*Uncountable*
□ I'm looking for **a job**.	□ I'm looking for **work**. (*not* a work)
□ What **a beautiful view**!	□ What beautiful **scenery**!
□ It's **a nice day** today.	□ It's nice **weather** today.
□ We had a lot of **bags** and **cases**.	□ We had a lot of **baggage/luggage**
□ **These chairs** are mine.	□ **This furniture** is mine.
□ That's **a good suggestion**.	□ That's good **advice**.

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○ 1.

Which of the underlined parts of these sentences is correct?

1 'Did you hear ~~noise~~ / a noise just now?' 'No, I didn't hear anything.' (a noise *is correct*).
2 a If you want to know the news, you can read paper / a paper.
  b I want to print some documents, but the printer is out of paper / papers.
3 a I thought there was somebody in the house because there was light / a light on inside.
  b Light / A light comes from the sun.
4 a I was in a hurry this morning. I didn't have time / a time for breakfast.
  b 'Did you enjoy your holiday?' 'Yes, we had wonderful time / a wonderful time.'
5 This is nice room / a nice room. Did you decorate it yourself?
6 Sue was very helpful. She gave us some very useful advice / advices.
7 Did you have nice weather / a nice weather when you were away?
8 We were very unfortunate. We had bad luck / a bad luck.
9 Is it difficult to find a work / job at the moment?

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10 Our travel / journey from Paris to Moscow by train was very tiring.
11 When the fire alarm rang, there was total chaos / a total chaos.
12 I had to buy a / some bread because I wanted to make some sandwiches.
13 Bad news don't / doesn't make people happy.
14 Your hair is / Your hairs are too long. You should have it / them cut.
15 The damage / the damages caused by the storm will cost a lot to repair.

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○ 2.

Put in much/many/few/little (one word only).

1 She isn't very popular. She has few friends.
2 Ann is very busy these days. She has ..... free time.
3 Did you take ..... photographs when you were on holiday?
4 I'm not very busy today. I haven't got ..... to do.
5 This is a very modern city. There are ..... old buildings.
6 The weather has been very dry recently. We've had ..... rain.
7 'Do you know Rome?' 'No, I haven't been there for ..... years.'

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○ 3.

Put in little / a little / few / a few.

1 Gary is very busy with his job. He has little time for other things.
2 Listen carefully. I'm going to give you ..... advice.
3 Do you mind if I ask you ..... questions?
4 It's not a very interesting place to visit, so ..... tourists come here.
5 I don't think Jill would be a good teacher. She's got ..... patience.
6 'Would you like milk in your coffee?' 'Yes, ...'
7 This is a very boring place to live. There's ..... to do.
8 'Have you ever been to Paris?' 'Yes, I've been there ..... times.'

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