

Countable and Uncountable Nouns – Rules

COUNTABLE NOUNS	UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS
+ can be counted	- _____ be counted
+ singular/ + plural: <i>a biscuit</i> -two biscuits <i>a fox</i> -two _____	+ singular/- plural: <i>(some)</i> sugar NOT: one sugar - two sugar
+ a/an (in the singular): <i>a fox</i> , <i>an apple</i>	- a/an/one/two: <i>I like to drink</i> _____ NOT: I like to drink a tea .
+ some/any/many/few or alone (in the plural): <i>She likes apples.</i> <i>I'm going to buy (some)</i> _____.	+ some/any/much/little/the or alone: <i>Remember to buy milk.</i> <i>Remember to buy (some)</i> _____.
+ singular AND plural verbs: <i>The book</i> _____ on the table. <i>The books</i> _____ on the table.	+ (generally) ONLY singular verbs: <i>Honey</i> _____ from bees. <i>The news</i> _____ good. <i>Gymnastics</i> _____ fun to watch. <i>Maths</i> _____ difficult.
	! A few nouns are ONLY used with verbs in the _____: <i>My trousers</i> are torn. <i>Her scissors</i> were stolen <i>His new glasses</i> help him see better.

COUNTABLE NOUNS	
Singular and plural spelling rules	
Regular plurals	Irregular plurals
Most words → + s <i>Pocket-pockets</i> <i>Snake-snakes</i>	<i>Child-children</i> <i>(Wo)man-(wo)men</i>
Words that finish in -ch, -x, -s, -o → + es <i>Watch-watches</i> <i>Box-_____</i> <i>Potato-_____</i>	<i>Foot-_____</i> <i>Tooth-_____</i> <i>Goose-_____</i> <i>Mouse-_____</i> <i>Louse-_____</i> <i>Ox-_____</i> <i>Sheep-_____</i> <i>Deer-_____</i> <i>Fish-_____</i> <i>Cactus-_____</i> <i>Phenomenon-_____</i> <i>Criterion-_____</i>
BUT <i>Radio-radios</i>	
Words that finish in a consonant + y → + <i>Baby-babies</i>	
BUT words that finish in a vowel + y → + <i>Toy-toys</i>	
Words that finish in -f/-fe → + <i>Loaf-loaves</i> <i>Life - lives</i>	
BUT words that finish in -ff → + <i>Cliff-cliffs</i>	

TYPES OF UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS	
bread/ justice/ milk/ copper/ oil/ gold/ peace/ weather/ furniture/ luggage/ rice	
Types of food: spaghetti, yoghurt, _____	
Liquids: water, coffee, wine _____	
Materials: silver, wood, crystal _____	
Abstract nouns: freedom, love, beauty, _____	
Other: news, advice, information, _____	

Uncountable nouns → countable nouns

bowl/ slice /bag / bar/ carton/ loaf/ packet/ piece

Rice → a _____ of rice

Soap/Chocolate → a _____ of soap/chocolate

Advice/cake/furniture → a _____ of furniture

Milk → a _____ of milk/eggs

Bread → a _____ of bread

QUANTIFIERS

SOME	MANY	MUCH	ANY	A LOT OF	NO
C+U Affirmative Interrogative (questions/requests/ offers)	C Negative Interrogative	U Negative Interrogative	C+U Negative Interrogative	C+U Affirmative	C+U Affirmative

LITTLE	A LITTLE	FEW	A FEW
U Affirmative (almost nothing)	U Affirmative (some, a small amount)	C Affirmative (almost none)	C Affirmative (some, a small number)

*C=countable, U=uncountable

Complete the sentences with the correct quantifier. Use the table above for help.

1. Would you like _____ coffee? (offer)
2. Can I have _____ juice, please? (request)
3. He's got _____ bread.
4. Have you got _____ tea? We haven't got _____ tea./We _____ no tea.
5. Mary's got _____ books (a large number of)
6. There is _____ fruit in that bowl (a large amount of)
7. How _____ books have you got? I haven't got _____ books.
8. How _____ money have you got? I haven't got _____ money.
9. I've got _____ eggs, I can make an omelette. (positive meaning = enough)

BUT

10. I have got _____ friends, I feel lonely. (negative meaning = not enough)
11. I have got _____ time, we can meet today (positive meaning = enough)

BUT

12. I've got very _____ time, I'm busy (negative meaning = not enough)