

LÍNGUA INGLESA II

COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS + QUANTIFIERS

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Look at these examples to see how to use countable and uncountable nouns in a sentence.

- *I'm making a cup of tea.*
- *There's some money on the table.*
- *Have we got any bread?*
- *How many chairs do we need?*
- *How much milk have we got?*



Nouns can be countable or uncountable. Countable nouns can be counted, e.g. **an apple**, **two apples**, **three apples**, etc. Uncountable nouns cannot be counted, e.g. **air**, **rice**, **water**, etc. When you learn a new noun, you should check if it is countable or uncountable and note how it is used in a sentence.

Countable nouns

- For positive sentences we can use **a/an** for singular nouns or **some** for plurals.

There's a man at the door.

I have some friends in New York.

- For negatives we can use **a/an** for singular nouns or **any** for plurals.

I don't have a dog.

There aren't any seats.

Uncountable nouns

- Here are some examples of uncountable nouns:

bread - rice - coffee - information - money - advice - luggage - furniture

- We use **some** with uncountable nouns in positive sentences and **any** with negatives.

There's some milk in the fridge.

There isn't any coffee.

Questions

- In questions we use **a/an**, **any** or **how many** with countable nouns.

Is there an email address to write to?

Are there any chairs?

How many chairs are there?

- And we use **any** or **how much** with uncountable nouns.

Is there any sugar?

How much orange juice is there?

- But when we are offering something or asking for something, we normally use **some**.

Do you want some chocolate?

Can we have some more chairs, please?

- We also use **some** in a question when we think the answer will be 'yes'.

Have you got some new glasses?

Other expressions of quantity

- **A lot of (or lots of)** can be used with both countable and uncountable nouns.

There are lots of apples on the trees.

There is a lot of snow on the road.

- Notice that we don't usually use many or much in positive sentences. We use **a lot of** instead.

They have a lot of money.

- However, in negative sentences we use **not many** with countable nouns and **not much** with uncountable nouns.

There are a lot of carrots but there aren't many potatoes.

There's lots of juice but there isn't much water.

Complete the sentences with one word.

1. We didn't have _____ problems.
2. Do you want _____ chocolate?
3. How _____ people have sent you email?
4. I need _____ information about train times.
5. We've got a _____ of luggage.
6. There isn't _____ space in the car.
7. I've bought _____ new shoes but I didn't get shirt.
8. There's never _____ petrol after Sam uses the car!

