

# Countable and uncountable nouns

countable and uncountable nouns; quantity expressions  
(*many, much, a lot of, some, any, a few, few, no*)

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## C Grammar exercises

1 Fill in the gaps with a word from the box below in the correct form. If the word is countable, you may need to change it to a plural form.

advice    cake    challenge    electricity    information    situation    size

- 1 I've faced many ..... in my life, but none as difficult as this.
- 2 Some of the best ..... I heard while I was a student was to take regular breaks when studying so that you don't lose concentration.
- 3 A dictionary is a wonderful source of .....
- 4 I've made some little ..... for Claire's birthday party.
- 5 One hundred years ago cars all looked the same but these days they come in lots of different shapes and .....
- 6 My job as a journalist means I can find myself in difficult ..... at times, but at least it's never boring.
- 7 There was no ..... in the remote cottage, so they had to cook over the fire.

2 Underline the correct form of the verbs.

- 1 Despite the recent improvement in the economy, unemployment has continued / have continued to rise.
- 2 Our company hasn't changed its products for over 30 years but now the time has come / have come for a rethink.
- 3 The ideas in the report was / were presented in a very clear way.
- 4 The data show / shows that the numbers of people buying mobile phones has remained stable for the past two years.
- 5 Transport to and from the airport is included / are included in the price.
- 6 There was / were no facilities like running water or electricity in the village.
- 7 All the information is / are interesting and well presented, but we need to consider the whole situation very carefully before we reach a decision.
- 8 There was / were some important news about the proposed new hospital in the local paper today.

3 Fill in the gaps with *amount*, *number*, *few*, *little*, *many* or *much*.

### How much sleep do we need?

The 1 amount of sleep each person needs depends on 2 ..... factors, including age. Infants generally require about 16 hours a day. For most adults, seven to eight hours a night appears to be the ideal 3 ..... of sleep, although a 4 ..... people may need as 5 ..... as five hours' sleep or as 6 ..... as ten hours' sleep each day. Getting too 7 ..... sleep creates a sleep debt, and eventually, your body will demand that the debt be repaid.

A large 8 ..... of people over 65 have frequent sleeping problems, such as insomnia, and deep sleep stages in 9 ..... elderly people often become very short or stop completely. Microsleeps, or very brief episodes of sleep in an otherwise awake person, are another mark of sleep deprivation. In 10 ..... cases, people are not aware that they are experiencing microsleeps. The widespread practice of burning the candle at both ends in western industrialized societies has created so 11 ..... sleep deprivation that what is really abnormal sleepiness is now almost the norm.

4 Read the extract from a talk about a holiday destination. Decide if the underlined quantity expressions are correct or not. Tick (✓) them if they are right and correct them if they are wrong.

The island is beautiful. Don't be dismayed when you get off the plane and find yourself in a large, rather ugly city with 1 a little sense of the old way of life you have read about. Just a short car ride away is the island you have been promised with its small villages and slow pace of life. And there really is 2 anything for everyone. For those that like sunbathing, it has 3 some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. If you like walking, the paths take you through some breathtaking scenery.

4 Little other places can match the stunning landscape of this island. For water sports enthusiasts, there are 5 any unusual activities such as diving for pearls or turtle spotting, along with 6 few of the more common sports such as waterskiing or windsurfing. If history is your thing, don't worry. There's 7 much history round every corner. Ruins from the ancient civilisations that lived here over 3000 years ago are everywhere, and although 8 a lot of people come here just to see the palace, you can find some lesser remains scattered around the surrounding hills.

Visit it 9 some time of the year and you will not be disappointed. Not 10 many places in the world can offer so much. 11 Not any holiday will ever match this one – our island has got it all!

1	<u>a little</u>
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