

Countable and Uncountable Nouns – Rules

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

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> <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>
Words that finish in -ch, -x, -s, -o → + es <i>Watch-watches</i> <i>Box-_____</i> <i>Potato-_____</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
<i>bread/ justice/ milk/ copper/ oil/ gold/ peace/ weather/ furniture/ luggage/ rice</i>
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 <i>bowl/ slice /bag / bar/ carton/ loaf/ packet/ piece</i>	
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.

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

BUT

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

BUT

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