

Countable and uncountable nouns

GRAMMAR ZONE

Countable nouns

- single things, people or ideas can have a singular and a plural form

Books can take you to another world!

I bought a book about Greece yesterday.

Uncountable nouns

- things we think of as a mass, e.g. materials and substances, and abstract ideas, like peace and trust. Uncountable nouns are never plural.

Sara spilled water all over the computer!

Trust is important, if you work in a team.

Quantifiers

- use *much, a little, a bit of* with uncountable nouns
There isn't much ink in the printer.
- use *some, any, a lot of, lots of, plenty of*, with countable and uncountable nouns
Jason has got lots of great DVDs.
I'd like some orange juice.
- use *many, a few, several* with countable nouns
There are several good TV programmes this evening.

Grammar File, page 169



Sara spilled water all over the computer!

1 Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- 1 There are *much/lots of* exciting scenes in the film
- 2 *Many/much* people read a newspaper every day.
- 3 There were *a few/a bit of* cakes left after the party.
- 4 Alison only likes *a few/a little* milk in her tea.
- 5 We've got *plenty of/much* CD's to listen to on the journey.
- 6 Do you want to borrow *any/a bit of* my books?
- 7 No thanks. I've got *lots/much* to read.
- 8 The girls bought *some/a little* magazines.

2 Write the singular or the plural form of the noun in brackets to complete the sentences.

- 1 There are several (cinema) in my town.
- 2 Did you know you can buy computers made of (wood)!
- 3 Don't be greedy! There isn't much (chocolate) left!
- 4 The game didn't work because there were some (error) in the programme.
- 5 The boys save a lot of (money) by sharing their games.
- 6 Have you got any (lemonade) left?
- 7 I want to buy a present for Vasos. Can you give me some (advice)?
- 8 You have to read all the (instruction) before you start downloading.

3 Choose the correct word from the list to complete the conversation.

some lot any lots few little

'Are you going to the shops now, Ben?'

'Yes, I really need to buy 1) milk. Do you want me to buy anything?'

'Haven't we got 2) milk in the fridge? I bought some yesterday and I thought we still had 3) left.'

'No, I just checked and there is only a 4) bit left. I think we all had cereal for breakfast, and that uses up a 5)'

'Ok. If I give you some money could you buy me a 6) oranges? I feel like I've got a cold coming on.'

'Oh, you poor thing! There are 7) nasty viruses around at the moment. You need to drink

8) of fluids. I'll make you

9) lemon and honey when I get back from the shop.'