

COUNTABLE & UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS IN ENGLISH

COUNTABLE & UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

LIQUIDS AND GASES

You can count the container it is in, but not the liquid or gas.

~~Two~~ bottles of milk.

EXAMPLES

water - milk - wine - oil
coffee - rain - soup - air
smoke - blood - juice - fog



COFFEE

~~Two~~ cups of coffee.

COUNTABLE & UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

BE CAREFUL!

Be careful with the following uncountable nouns as they may be considered countable in other languages.

EXAMPLES

furniture - advice - work - news
information - luggage - money



MONEY

- I have five coins. ✓
- I have ninety dollars. ✓
- I have ~~five~~ moneys. ✗

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

COUNTABLE NOUNS

Have a singular and plural form
Can use a *singular* verb or a *plural* verb

We can count

a tree two trees
The **book** is old.
The **books** are old.

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Have only one form (no plural)
Always use a singular verb
Cannot use *a*, *an* or *a number* before them

We cannot count

butter ~~butters~~
Sugar is sweet.
~~a~~ rice two rice
~~a~~ bread ~~two~~ bread

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS ARE OFTEN...

ABSTRACT IDEAS (cannot touch)

love, freedom, education, luck, help, beauty, music, thunder

LIQUIDS & GASES

water, milk, wine, oil, coffee, rain, soup, air, smoke, blood, juice, fog

MADE OF SMALLER PARTS

sugar, rice, salt, sand, flour, dirt, dust, traffic, grass, spaghetti

MATERIALS

wood, glass, paper, gold, silver, ice, iron, cotton, wool, steel

SOME FOOD (cut into small parts)

bread, fish, cheese, chocolate, meat, bacon, food, ham

BE CAREFUL! (uncountable in English)

furniture, advice, work, news, information, luggage, money

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Ex.1 Which of the underlined parts of these sentences is correct?

1 'Did you hear noise / a noise just now? "No, I didn't hear anything.'

2 a If you want to know the news, you can read payer / a paper.

b I want to print some documents, but the printer is out of paper / papers.

3 a I thought there was somebody in the house because there was light / a light on inside.

b Light / A light comes from the sun.

4 a I was in a hurry this morning. I didn't have time / a time for breakfast.

b 'Did you enjoy your holiday? "Yes, we had wonderful time / a wonderful time.' 3 This is nice room / a nice room Did you decorate it yourself?

6 Sue was very helpful. She gave us some very useful Advice / advices.

7 Did you have nice weather / a nice weather when you were away?

8 We were very unfortunate. We had had luck / a had luck.

9 Is it difficult to find a work / job at the moment?

10 Our travel / journey from Paris to Moscow by train was very tiring.

11 When the fire alarm rang, there was total chaos / a total chaos

12 I had to buy a / some bread because I wanted to make some sandwiches.

13 Bad news don't / doesn't make people happy.

14 Your hair is / Your hairs are too long. You should have it / them cut.

15 The damage / the damages caused by the storm will cost a lot to repair.

Ex.2 Complete the sentences using the following words. Use the plural (-s) where necessary.

advice

chair

experience

experience

furniture

hair
information
job
luggage
permission
progress
work

- 1 I didn't have much _____ - just two small bags.
- 2 They'll tell you all you want to know. They'll give you plenty of _____.
- 3 There is room for everybody to sit down. There are plenty of _____.
- 4 We have no _____, not even a bed or a table.
- 5 'What does Alan look like?' He's got a long beard and very short _____.
- 6 Carla's English is better than it was. She's made _____.
- 7 Mike is unemployed. He can't get a _____.
- 8 Mike is unemployed. He can't get _____.
- 9 If you want to leave early, you have to ask for _____.
- 10 I didn't know what to do. So I asked Chris for _____.
- 11 I don't think Dan will get the job. He doesn't have enough _____.
- 12 Paul has done many interesting things. He could write a book about his _____.

Ex.3 What do you say in these situations? Complete each sentence using one of the words from Section B.

- 1 Your friends have just arrived at the station. You can't see any cases or bags.
You ask them: Have _____.
- 2 You go into the tourist office. You want to know about places to see in the town.
You say: I'd like _____.
- 3 You are a student. You want your teacher to advise you about which courses to do.
You say: Can you give use _____.
- 4 You want to watch the news on TV, but you don't know when it is on.
You ask your friend: What time _____.

5 You are at the top of a mountain. You can see a very long way. It's beautiful.

You say: It _____, isn't it?

6 You look out of the window. The weather is horrible: cold, wet and windy.

You say: What_____.

Ex 4

a) How much/How many pasta have we got?

b) Where is/are my new trousers?

c) I put some/any chocolate somewhere, but where is it?

d) Peter went to buy a/some glass so he could fix the broken windows.

e) I'm afraid we haven't got much/many time.

f) How much/How many furniture shops are there?

g) I've found the milk but I can't find a/some glass.

h) Mary's advice was/were not very useful.

Ex 5

Put one word in each space. Put a dash (—) if the space should be blank.

a) My trousers need ironing. Have you got _____iron?

b) Could you go to the baker's and buy _____ loaf, please?

c) I'd like _____ information about trains to Paris.

d) Louise has_____ very good health.

e) The war ended _____ years ago.

f) Vanessa bought _____ paper and read it on the bus.

g) Could you give me _____advice, please?

h) Do you know _____people in this village?