

Countable and uncountable nouns

1. What are countable nouns?

Countable nouns are things you can count as individual units.

They have:

- a singular form (one item)
- a plural form (more than one item)

Examples:

one apple, two apples
a book, three books
an idea, many ideas

You can use them with:

- a / an → a chair, an egg
- numbers → five cars, ten students
- plural verbs → The students are ready.

2. What are uncountable nouns?

Uncountable nouns are things you cannot count as separate pieces. They are seen as a “whole” or “mass”.

They usually:

- do NOT have a plural form
- use singular verbs

Examples:

water
milk
rice
information

advice
money (treated as a mass in grammar)
furniture

You cannot say:

✗ two waters / three milks / informations

Instead you say:

- ✓ a glass of water
- ✓ a piece of furniture
- ✓ some information

3. How to talk about uncountable nouns

Since you can't count them directly, you use measure words / containers / quantities:

a bottle of water
a cup of tea
a loaf of bread
a piece of advice
a bowl of rice

Words like some / much / a little are also common:

I need some help.
There isn't much sugar.
I have a little time.

4. Quick memory rule

If you can count it → countable
If it feels like a "mass" or substance → uncountable