



COUNTABLE & UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

COUNTABLE NOUNS

Countable nouns are nouns that can be counted.
Most nouns in English are countable.

Examples:

- I have *two* **dogs**.
- Sandra has *three* **cars**.
- Jessie has *ten* **dollars**.

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Uncountable nouns are not counted in English.

We often picture these nouns as a single concept or one big thing which is hard to divide.

Examples:

- Mack drinks a lot of **water**.
- Cindy gives great **advice**.
- Paul enjoys **politics**. *Ends with "s" but uncountable*

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

CATEGORIES:

Liquids and Gases

- water
- coffee
- milk
- air
- oxygen

Solid and Granular Substances

- wood
- metal
- cheese
- sand
- rice

Energy Words and Forces

- electricity
- sunshine
- radiation
- heat
- magnetism

Subjects

- French
- chemistry
- economics
- science
- math

Grouped Concepts

- fruit
- money
- food
- vocabulary
- news

Information and Abstract Concepts

- information
- advice
- education
- democracy
- intelligence

UNCOUNTABLE PLURALS

Sometimes in English, we do use uncountable nouns in plural forms. This is most commonly done with liquids and substances. It usually takes on the meaning of "cups of", "bottles of" or "types of".

Examples:

- We'll have *two* **coffees**. *Cups of coffee*
- I bought *three* **waters**. *Bottles of water*
- The company produces *two* **leathers**. *Types of leather*

DIFFERENT MEANINGS

There are certain words which have multiple meanings. It is possible for one meaning to be countable and the other to be uncountable. Take for example the word "light":

Examples:

- I couldn't see anything because there was no **light**. *Uncountable noun*
- The Christmas tree was covered with hundreds of **lights**. *Countable noun*

Generally, the rules are still the same. The first use of "light" is a form of energy. The second use of "light" means "small light bulbs", which are normal countable objects.

<http://englishpage.com/minitutorials/countable-uncountable-nouns.htm>