

COUNT AND UNCOUNT NOUNS

Count nouns are individual people, animals, places, things, or ideas which can be counted. Uncount nouns are not individual objects, so they cannot be counted.

COUNT NOUNS

Anything that can be counted, whether singular – a dog, a house, a friend, etc. or plural – a few books, lots of oranges, etc. is a count noun. The singular verbs are used with singular count nouns, while plural verbs are used with plural count nouns.

Examples:

1. There are at least twenty Italian restaurants in Little Italy.
2. Megan took a lot of photographs when she went to the Grand Canyon.
3. Your book is on the kitchen table.
4. How many candles are on that birthday cake?
5. You have several paintings to study in art appreciation class.

UNCOUNT NOUNS

Anything that cannot be counted is an uncount nouns. Even though uncount nouns are not individual objects, they are always singular and one must always use singular verbs in conjunction with uncount nouns. The singular verbs are always used with uncount nouns.

Examples

1. There is no more water in the pond.
2. Please help yourself to some cheese.
3. I need to find information about Pulitzer Prize winners.
4. You seem to have a high level of intelligence.
5. Please take good care of your equipment.

Uncount nouns can be paired with words expressing plural concept. The following are some examples of how to format interesting sentences with uncount nouns.

- Garbage – There are nine bags of garbage on the curb.
- Water – Try to drink at least eight glasses of water each day.
- Advice – She gave me a useful piece of advice.
- Bread – Please buy a loaf of bread.
- Furniture – A couch is a piece of furniture.
- Equipment – A backhoe is an expensive piece of equipment.
- Cheese – Please bag ten slices of cheese for me.

Count and Uncount Nouns Exercises

Find out the nouns from the bold words:

1. The **children** fell asleep quickly after a busy day of fun.
2. Be careful! The **water** is deep.
3. The parade included fire trucks and police **cars**.
4. We like the large **bottles** of mineral water.
5. My mother uses real **butter** in the cakes she bakes.
6. How many **politicians** does it take to pass a simple law?
7. Most kids like **milk**, but Joey hates it.
8. Most pottery is made of **clay**.
9. Michael can play several different musical **instruments**.
10. I was feeling so stressed that I ate an entire **box of cookies**.

Answers: 1 – count, 2 – uncount, 3 – count, 4 – count, 5 – uncount, 6 – count, 7 – uncount, 8 – uncount, 9 – count, 10 – count

