

Class 4 English Language

Lesson 3

Countable and Uncountable nouns

There are two types of common noun. These are countable nouns and uncountable nouns. It's really important to know if a noun is countable or uncountable, because it changes how we use it in a sentence.

Countable nouns are things which can be counted like 'table', 'apple' or 'boy'. They usually change their form when we make a plural (they often add an 's'), and can be used with either a singular or a plural verb: one book falls, two books fall.

On the other hand, uncountable nouns are usually things which can't easily be counted, like 'oil', 'rice' or 'water'. Uncountable nouns do not make a plural or change their form, and they are always used with a singular verb. We can't say ~~one rice, two rices~~.

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

- **Countable nouns** are nouns that we can count. **Uncountable nouns** are nouns that we cannot count.
- **Countable nouns** have singular and plural forms. **Uncountable nouns** do not have plural forms.
- **Countable nouns** can take *a/an/the, some*, or numbers before them. **Uncountable nouns** can take *the* or *some* before them. Do NOT use *a/an* or numbers before them.



the table, some telephones, a teacher, five forks
the cheese, some sugar, a coffee (X), two meat (X)

- Uncountable nouns always use a third person singular verb.



There **is** water in my cup. (✓) There **are** water in my cup. (X)

- To make uncountable nouns countable, use **partitives** before them.



a loaf of bread two bottles of milk

Countable Nouns



a banana
a carrot
a grape
a strawberry
a tomato
an apple

Uncountable Nouns



bread
cereal
juice
milk
rice
water
butter

Look at this picture.

List of countable and Uncountable nouns.

Countable	Uncountable
idea	advice
man	work
woman	bread
child	entertainment
dish	equipment
table	experience (doing something)
photo	flour
life	food
vegetable	fruit
coin	furniture
holiday	gum
country	hair (on a person/animal)
ocean	homework
flower	information
suitcase	luggage
clock	music
umbrella	pants
newspaper	paper
friend	rice
bus	soap
movie/film	traffic
trip/journey	travel
theatre	weather

Solve the given exercise

Tell whether the underlined noun is countable or uncountable.

1. He used the computer to find more information. _____
2. She unfolded the towel on the sand. _____
3. There was too much furniture in the room. _____
4. A student sat down in her seat. _____
5. The radio was playing a beautiful song. _____
6. The teacher gave the students some advice. _____
7. Steven had to hang a picture on the wall. _____
8. Sarah played the music for the class. _____
9. The rice was steaming on a plate. _____
10. She put the jelly bean into her mouth and chewed. _____
11. Tabitha gathered research on the Internet. _____
12. The duty aide found a jump rope on the playground. _____

Use of Quantifiers

SOME ANY MUCH MANY A LOT (A) FEW (A) LITTLE

A

Some and **Any** are used before plural nouns and uncountable nouns to talk about an indefinite quantity:

Ex: *Some letters* *any letters*
Some money *any money*

Some is used in affirmative sentences.

Ex: - *There are some letters for you.*
- *I've got some money.*

Some is used in questions when we want to encourage people to say 'yes'; for example in requests and offers.

Ex: - *Can you let me have some paper?*
- *Would you like some more tea?*
- *Have you got some paper I could have, Please?*

Any is used in negative and question form.

Ex: - *Are there any new stories in your store.*
- *Is there any tea in the cupboard?*
- *I don't have any new stories for you.*
- *There isn't any tea in the cupboard.*

Any is used after words with negative meaning such as without, never, seldom, rarely, hardly.

Ex: - *I found a taxi without any trouble.*
- *You never do any homework.*
- *There are hardly any eggs left.*

R

Little and few without **a** are more negative idea.

Little means "not much" or "almost no". **Few** means "not many" or "almost no".

Ex: - *There is little work to do. (= almost no work to do)*
- *The exam is extremely difficult and few students passed it. (= almost no students)*

B

We use **much** and **many** mostly in question and negative. **Much** is used with uncountable nouns, and **many** is used with countable plural nouns.

Ex: - *Is there much rice left?*
- *We haven't got much rice left.*
- *Has he got many books?*
- *He hasn't got many books.*

Note: We often use **much** and **many** in affirmative sentences after **too**, **as**, **so** and **very**.

Ex: - *Take as much milk as you want.*
- *I've got so many jobs to do today.*
- *We enjoy the party very much.*
- *We've got too much milk.*

In affirmative sentences, we normally use **a lot (of)**, **lots (of)** and **plenty (of)**, not **much** and **many**.

We use **a lot (of)**, **lots (of)** and **plenty (of)** with both uncountable nouns and plural nouns.

Ex: - *We've got a lot of milk.*
(Not: ~~We've got much milk.~~)
- *He's got a lot of / plenty of books.*
(Not normally: ~~He's got many books.~~)

C

We use **a little** to express positive idea with uncountable nouns. It means "a small amount, but some".

Ex: - *There is still a little work to do.*
- *I have a little sugar in the jar.*

We use **a few** to express positive idea with plural nouns. It means a small number, but some".

Ex: - *A few students passed it because the exam is extremely difficult.*
- *There are a few people come today.*

Try to Solve the exercise children.

I. Circle the correct answers.

1. There aren't *some* / *any* help.
2. Do you know *some* / *any* Americans?
3. We need *some* / *any* more coffee.
4. She's got *some* / *any* interesting friends.
5. I didn't have *some* / *any* breakfast today.
6. He hasn't done *some* / *any* work for ten years.
7. Have you got *some* / *any* brothers and sisters?
8. I'm having *some* / *any* problems with my car.
9. Are there *some* / *any* restaurants near here?



IV. Fill in the blanks with *much*, *many*, and *a lot of*.

1. John hasn't _____ money.
2. There is _____ gold in the bag
3. I haven't got _____ birds in the sky.
4. There aren't _____ cars in the street.
5. Are there _____ apples on the tree?
6. Jane spends _____ money at the shops.
7. Have you got _____ bread in the cupboard?
8. Are there _____ children on the beach?
9. We are early. We have _____ time.



II. Write some sentences with *some*.

Ex: 0. Would you like *some* more coffee?

0. Could I have *some* bread?

1. (Ask for coffee) _____
2. (Offer read) _____
3. (Offer rice) _____
4. (Ask for tomatoes) _____
5. (Offer more potatoes) _____
6. (Ask for more milk) _____
7. (Ask for oil) _____



V. Fill in a *little* or *a few*.

1. _____ lemonade
2. _____ men
3. _____ milk
4. _____ sweets
5. _____ women
6. _____ money
7. _____ friends
8. _____ houses
9. _____ snow



III. Put in *much* or *many*.

1. I haven't got _____ time.
2. Do you play _____ football?
3. I don't eat _____ meat.
4. There aren't _____ people here.
5. We don't have _____ rain in summer.
6. Are there _____ American in your country?
7. Have you travelled to _____ countries?
8. Was there _____ traffic on the road?



VI. Choose the correct item.

1. Have got _____ friends?
A) many B) much C) a lot of
2. There are _____ people in the room.
A) much B) a little C) a lot of
3. Can I have _____ sugar, please?
A) a few B) a little C) little
4. How _____ oranges are on the table?
A) many B) a few C) much
5. How _____ money has Fred got?
A) many B) little C) much
6. There are _____ monkeys at the zoo.
A) much B) a few C) a little.

