

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Nouns are divided into the categories of Count and Noncount Nouns. The basic distinction is that count nouns can take the plural form, while noncount nouns cannot.

Noun	Plural
<i>apple</i>	<i>apples</i>
<i>car</i>	<i>cars</i>
<i>music</i>	No plural form
<i>furniture</i>	No plural form

Countable Nouns

Typically, countable nouns refer to things that you can easily count.

- *bananas*
- *boats*
- *bottles*
- *cars*
- *countries*
- *houses*
- *pencils*
- *ships*
- *sticks*
- *students*

Uncountable Nouns

Noncount nouns refer to things that by their nature are not easily countable. Often they are things in liquid or mass form or abstract ideas.

- *sand*
- *beauty*
- *butter*
- *electricity*
- *honesty*
- *music*
- *sand*
- *satisfaction*
- *truth*
- *water*

Other uncountable Nouns

Other noncount nouns are not as easy to determine and can lead to confusion.

- *advice*
- *behavior*
- *bread*
- *chaos*
- *clothing*
- *dirt*
- *equipment*
- *food*
- *fruit*
- *furniture*
- *grammar*
- *homework*
- *housework*
- *information*
- *jewelry*
- *luck*
- *luggage*
- *mail*
- *money*
- *music*
- *news*
- *permission*
- *progress*
- *scenery*
- *slang*
- *stuff*
- *traffic*
- *vocabulary*
- *weather*
- *work*

Nouns That Can Be Both Countable and uncountable

Some nouns can be both count and noncount nouns. Usually there is a difference in meaning.

- John has some **chickens** on his farm. (the whole birds)
- Mary ate some **chicken** for dinner (the stuff you eat)
- John has a **fish** in his aquarium. (the whole fish)
- Mary had some **fish** for lunch. (the stuff you eat)
- There are two **hairs** in my soup. (two individual hairs)
- Your **hair** is pretty. (all of the hair on your head)