

Countable & Uncountable Nouns

Lesson plan

Time: 40 - 60 minutes

Level: *****[B1/B2/C1]

Lesson Plan

Aim: to develop the students' awareness of countable / uncountable nouns, quantifiers and irregular plural nouns.

1. Lead in

- Ask Students to discuss 'uncountable nouns'
- Feedback as a class and write up some of the words (water, air, money, etc...)
- Using the word 'information' - ask how to make this countable?
- Elicit quantifiers; *much, some, any, enough, a lot of, an amount of, a great deal of*.
- Try to also elicit phrasal quantifiers like 'a piece of information' (basic level), or more advanced = 'an item of', 'a lack of', 'a source of information'.
- Lastly, ask if 'hair' is countable or uncountable? Elicit that it is both: her hair is blonde (uncountable), I've got a hair in my soup (countable). Or 'coffee' for example; coffee is grown in Costa Rica (uncountable UC), to buy two coffees (countable C).

Activity #1: [cut up activity sheet 1 - give out to group of 3/4] - Students take a noun and put it under the heading of countable / both / uncountable.

After 10 minutes tell students that Countable = 9 / Both = 10 / Uncountable = 21 words.

After 10 minutes more give out answers or feedback. Highlight verb forms in **BOLD**.

Answers for both: *to do business (UC), I have a business (C) / to share gossip (UC), to be a gossip (C), to ask for help (UC), to be a help(er) (C) / to produce iron (UC), to have an iron for the clothes (C), paper (UC), to write a [research] paper (C) / toast as in bread (UC), to make a toast (C) / work (UC), a work of art (C).*

Activity #2: [Uncountable exercise sheet (20 minutes)] - students work through the sentences to identify the mistake and make corrections. Feedback as whole class or use answer sheet.

Activity #3: [Speaking - cut up the cards] - students take a card and discuss the topics for 309 seconds to a minute each.

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Countable	Both	Uncountable
Army	Business	Accommodation
Children	Chicken	Advice
Class	Coffee	Behaviour
Crowd	Gossip	Data
Decision	Hair	Equipment
Family	Help	Evidence
Government	Iron	Furniture
Impression	Paper	Health
People	Toast	Homework
Team	Work	Information
View		Knowledge
		Luggage
		Media
		Money
		Press
		Permission
		Police
		Public
		Scenery
		Staff
		Traffic
		Weather

Countable Nouns **ANSWERS**

<u>countable</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>uncountable</u>
Army	Business	Accommodation
Children	Chicken	Advice
Class	Coffee	Behaviour
Crowd	Gossip	Data
Decision	Hair	Equipment
Family	Help	Evidence
Government	Iron	Furniture
Impression	Paper	Health
People (are)	Toast	Homework
Team	Work	Information
View		Knowledge
		Luggage
		Media
		Money
		Press
		Permission
		Police (are)
		Public
		Staff
		Scenery
Words in bold can use the singular or plural verb form: <i>The government <u>is/are</u> changing the laws.</i> <i>The Media <u>is/are</u> reporting the news live.</i> BUT the police / people is only a plural verb (are): <i>The police <u>are</u> investigating the crime</i>		Research
		Traffic
		Weather

Irregular Plural Nouns

woman/women: man/men: child/children: person/people: sheep/sheep: fish/fish:
 tooth/teeth: half/halves: life/lives: syllabi/syllabuses: phenomenon/phenomena:
 datum/data / crisis/crises: analysis/analyses:

Countable Nouns: correct the mistakes

some / any / much / a lot / a piece of / an amount of / a great deal of / a type of

1. There is a lot of informations on this website.
2. I need to go into town to buy an large amount of paper.
3. Six hundred member of staffs work here at the university.
4. There are many accommodations available in the centre of the city.
5. I have two advices for you about living in the UK.
6. She usually makes ten executive decisions a week.
7. The Police is very quick in their response to terrorism in London.
8. There are a lot Governments in the world who support the death sentence.
9. How many cases of luggage will you take on holiday?
10. There is only a few people here in the class today?
11. Tonight, I will be doing my two homeworks.
12. I hope to do much more business with you in the future.
13. We have to make a great deal of decisions before we leave.
14. I need to buy a memory stick with a piece of data on it.
15. He has amazing amount of knowledge about Chinese history.
16. The police is still collecting many evidence about the burglary.
17. There is a few traffic in my town.
18. Do you have **some / any** cash? (What's the difference between **some** & **any**?).
19. There is a considerable number of media outside the building.
20. Smoking is bad for a health.

L1 LANGUAGE: Are these countable in your language:

accommodation, advice, baggage, behavior, bread, furniture, information, luggage, news, progress, traffic, travel, trouble, weather, work

Countable Nouns **ANSWERS**

1. There is a lot of **information** on this website.
2. I need to go into town to buy **an** large amount of paper.
3. Six hundred members **s** of **staff** work here at the university.
4. There **is a lot of** **accommodation** available in the centre of the city.
5. I have two **pieces of** **advice** for you about living in the UK.
6. She usually makes ten executive decisions a week.
7. The Police **are** very quick in their response to terrorism in London.
8. There are a lot **of** Governments in the world who support the death sentence.
9. How many cases of luggage will you take on holiday?
10. There **are** only a few people here in the class today?
11. Tonight I will be doing two **pieces of** **homework**.
12. I hope to do much more business with you in the future.
13. We have to make a great **number** of decisions before we leave.
14. I need to buy a memory stick with **some** data on it.
15. He has **an** amazing amount of knowledge about Chinese History.
16. The police **are** still collecting **a lot of** evidence about the burglary.
17. There **isn't much / hardly any** traffic in my town.
21. Do you have **some / any** cash? (what's the difference between some & any?).
Any means - I don't think you have / some means I think you do have
18. There is a considerable **amount** of media outside the building.
19. Smoking is bad for ~~a~~ health.

Speaking - uncountable nouns

What's your accommodation like?	What advice would you offer for a good holiday in your country?	How much cash do you have on you at the moment?
What information do you need to find out this week?	Have you heard any gossip recently?	What was the main news story in the media this weekend?
What types of furniture would you like to buy next?	What type of coffee do you usually buy from a café?	Do you need to make a decision at the moment? If so, what?
What was your first impression of this place?	What's the traffic like where you live?	Do you worry about your personal data being hacked?
Do you have much luggage to take back home?	Is there any evidence for other life in this university?	How much homework do you have at the moment?
Have you ever had to contact the police for anything?	Can you describe the weather today?	What type of behaviour do you dislike in public?
If you start your own business, what would it be?	What are you doing to improve your health?	Where do you want to work in the future?