

Countable/uncountable nouns

- It's important to identify whether the subject is singular or plural, **countable or uncountable** to be able to properly match the subject and the verb
- Identifying whether the noun is countable or uncountable allows you to correctly use / choose among “much”, “many,” “few,” “little”.....

With countable nouns	With uncountable nouns
A / an	A/an
+ plural verb	+ plural verb
+s	+s
Several	several
Some	Some
Much	Much
Many	many
Few/ a few	Few/ a few
Little / a little	Little / a little
A lot of	A lot of

➔ **Exceptions:**

- Some uncountable nouns can sometimes be used as countable nouns and vice versa
eg.

- The shop sells many different wools.
“wool” (la laine) is normally uncountable but in this sentence it is used as countable and it means *different kinds of wool*.
- Fish makes a healthy dinner.
“fish” is countable but in this sentence it’s used as an uncountable because what is meant is not fish the animal but fish as food.

- Some nouns or noun phrases look like in the plural (like news) or contain a plural noun ar singular
example: “National Autos” as it is a name of a company, it’s singular despite “autos”

➔ -----body / -----one / ---thing

- All the combinations of -body (everybody, anybody, somebody) are singular, so followed by a singular verb.

Example:

Everybody in the room **has** have to apply the rules.

Similarly, all the combinations of **-one (everyone, anyone, someone)** as well as the combinations of **-thing (everything, something, anything)** are **singular**

→ **Generic sense:**

- + **countable noun:**
- **a + singular countable noun**
eg.
- **a the + plural countable noun**
eg.

2- + **uncountable noun:**

a the + uncountable singular noun

To go further:

<https://www.testden.com/toeic/grammar-count-non-count-nouns.htm>

→ **few/ a few/ little alittle**

«**a few** » = small number

« **a little** » = small quantity

“**Few**” and “**little**” have **negative meanings**. There’s **less than expected**

examples

- She paid **little** attention to the matter = **almost not (not enough)** ; she could have paid more attention
- She paid **a little** attention to the matter. = some attention (**without any criticism** or feeling that the time is not enough like the previous sentence)
- There’s **little** food in the fridge. = **almost no food** ; so you have to do the shopping.
- I’ve brought her **a few** flowers for her birthday. = some flowers
- I’ve brought her **few** flowers for her birthday. = not many/ **not enough flower** ; I should have brought her more (criticism). Perhaps, there weren’t any more at the florist’s.