

Countable nouns

Form

Countable nouns have a singular and a plural form and take a singular or plural verb.

Countable nouns

Example

shop / shops

There are over 100 **shops** in the new shopping centre.

baby / babies

They've got some great toys for **babies** in there.

dish / dishes

We need to get some new **dishes** for this evening.

Helpful hints

We use these words with countable nouns:

- a, an • many
- a few • one, two, etc

Watch out!

A few countable nouns have irregular plurals. They include:

- one child, two children
- one foot, two feet
- one man, two men
- one person, two people
- one tooth, two teeth
- one woman, two women

Uncountable nouns

Form

We cannot count some nouns (*uncountable nouns*). They do not have a plural form and take a singular verb, even if they end in -s.

Some uncountable nouns

Example

advice, bread, fruit, furniture,
hair, homework, information,
money, news, paper, rice, work

My **money is** in my wallet.

Your **hair is** really long!

The **news was** a complete shock.

Helpful hints

We use these words with uncountable nouns:

- a little • much
- a bit of • a piece of

We use these words with both countable and uncountable nouns:

- a lot of • some • lots of • the

We can use *any* in questions and negative statements with both uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns:

- Have we got **any** homework today?
- There aren't **any** eggs left.

Watch out!

- There are a few uncountable nouns that are plural and are followed by a plural verb. Be careful with the following words.

- clothes
✓ Your clean **clothes are** on the bed.
- jeans
✓ Your new **jeans look** great!

- Some nouns are uncountable with one meaning and countable with another meaning.
✓ Get me some **paper** when you go to the shops. (= a packet of paper to write on)
✓ Get me **a paper** when you go to the shops. (= a newspaper)

a (indefinite article)

Form	Use	Example
	singular countable nouns (not specific)	I need to get a new coat.

an (indefinite article)

Form	Use	Example
	instead of a when the next word begins with a vowel sound	I don't have enough money for an expensive dress.

Watch out!

Whether we use a or an with a word depends on the sound, not the spelling. Be careful with the following words and phrases.

- an honest person
- an hour
- a euro
- a uniform

the (definite article)

Form	Use	Example
	singular countable nouns (specific)	Let's go to the new shopping centre.
	plural countable nouns (specific)	Where are the books I ordered?
	uncountable nouns (specific)	I gave the shop assistant the money and then left.

No article (zero article)

Form	Use	Example
	plural countable nouns (general)	Prices have gone up a lot recently.
	uncountable nouns (general)	Fresh fruit is really good for you.

Special rules

Form	Use	Example
	places	the : seas (the Atlantic), rivers (the Amazon), areas (the Antarctic), some countries (the USA, the UK), public buildings (the theatre), the Earth, the world, the sky, the moon, the sun, the sea, the environment no article : towns and cities (Moscow), most countries (France), continents (Europe), streets (Baker Street), planets (Mars)
	activities	a/an : have a job, work as a ... the : on the radio, the media, play the piano no article : go to work, on TV, go shopping, play tennis, listen to music, go to work, go to school, be at school, be at university, school subjects (maths)
	time	the : in the morning/afternoon/evening, on the 20 th March, in the 1950s no article : days (Thursday), months (May), years (2009), at night
	people	the : the King, the Prime Minister, the army, the navy, the police, the Germans, the English no article : become king, he's English, speak English

Topic vocabulary

see page 189 for definitions

advertisement (n)	demand (v)	property (n)
afford (v)	export (v)	purchase (v, n)
bargain (n)	fee (n)	receipt (n)
brand (n)	fortune (n)	require (v)
catalogue (n)	import (v)	sale (n)
change (n)	invest (v)	save (v)
coin (n)	obtain (v)	select (v)
cost (v, n)	owe (v)	supply (v, n)
customer (n)	own (v)	variety (n)
debt (n)	profit (n)	waste (v, n)

Phrasal verbs

add up	find the total of
come back (from)	return (from)
give away	give sth free of charge
hurry up	do sth more quickly
pay back	return money (to sb)
save up (for)	save money (for a specific purpose)
take back	return sth to the place it came from
take down	remove (from a high place)

Prepositional phrases

by credit card/cheque
for rent
for sale
in cash
in debt
in good/bad condition

Word formation

add	addition	judge	judgement
afford	affordable	serve	service, servant
compare	comparison	true	truth, untrue, truthful
decide	decision	use	useful, useless
expense	(in)expensive	value	valuable

Word patterns

<i>adjectives</i>	wrong about/with		decide on
<i>verbs</i>	belong to		lend sth to
	borrow sth from		pay for
	buy sth from		spend sth on
	choose between	<i>nouns</i>	an advert(isement) for
	compare sth to/with		