

## Countable and Uncountable nouns

### 0) Countable nouns:

1. In English, nouns can be countable or uncountable. Countable nouns are things we can count:

a burger                  a banana                  a team                  an egg

2. Countable nouns can be singular. They often have a/an, the, this/that in front of them:

Where's the key?  
This apple is very hard.

3. Countable nouns also can be plural. They often have the, some, these/those in front of them:

I'd like some oranges, please.  
Those flowers look good.

### 1) Uncountable nouns:

1. Uncountable nouns are things we can't count. They don't usually have a plural form and a/an in front of them:

three milks  
a sugar  
two oils  
a salt

2. Uncountable nouns often have some in front of them:

x Can I have a milk in my coffee?  
✓ Can I have some milk in my coffee?

3. Uncountable nouns are always used with verbs in the singular:

x There are some rice.  
✓ There is some rice.  
x Education are very important.  
✓ Education is very important.

4. Some common uncountable nouns are:

- **materials:** metal, wood, plastic, paper
- **food:** bread, cheese, meat, tea, coffee, sugar
- **ideas** and feelings: advice, love, news, education, information
- **groups of similar things:** furniture, luggage, money
- **school subjects and languages:** art, music, English, Spanish

### **Some and Any**

#### **'Some' and 'any' with a noun**

1. We use some for a number (more than one) or an amount of something. The exact number or amount is not important:  
You need some lemons.  
We've got some oranges today.  
There are some children in the park.
2. Some replaces a/an in sentences with plural nouns:  
There is a hotel in the town.  
There are some hotels in the town.
3. Some is replaced by any to form questions and negatives:  
There are some cafes in the town. (Positive)  
Are there any cafes in the town? (Question)  
There aren't any cafes in the town. (Negative)  
I have got some apples. (Positive)  
Do you have any apples? (Question)  
I haven't got any apples. (Negative)
4. We use some in questions:
  1. when we ask for something:  
Can I have some red grapes?  
Can I borrow some money?
  2. when we offer something to someone:  
Would you like some milk?  
Do you want some tea with your lunch?
  3. when we suggest something:  
Why don't you give her some advice?  
Why don't we watch some movies on TV tonight?

### **'Some' and 'any' without a noun**

1. We can use some and any in a sentence without a noun if the meaning of the sentence is clear:  
I didn't eat any salad but Peter ate some. (salad)  
James took lots of photos of the mountains but Emma didn't take any. (photos)  
I'm making some tea. Do you want some? (Tea)
2. It is possible to repeat the noun after some and any. But it is more natural NOT to repeat  
How much cheese is there?  
- There isn't any.  
(There isn't any cheese.)

### **(some) or (any)?**

1. We need ..... bananas.
2. You can't buy ..... posters in this shop.
3. We haven't got ..... oranges at the moment.
4. Peter has bought ..... new books.
5. She always takes ..... sugar with her coffee.
6. I have seen ..... nice postcards in this souvenir shop.
7. There aren't ..... folders in my bag.
8. I have ..... magazines for you.
9. There are ..... apples on the table.
10. Pam does not have ..... pencils on her desk.