

## Countable and uncountable nouns



It's important to distinguish between countable and uncountable nouns in English because their usage is different in regards to both, determiners and verbs.

### Countable nouns

Countable nouns are for things we can count using numbers. **They have a singular and a plural form.** The singular form can use the determiner "a" or "an". If you want to ask about the quantity of a countable noun, you ask "**How many?**" combined with the plural countable noun. **EXAMPLES:**



An apple



4 apples

A banana

15 bananas

### Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns are for the things that **we cannot count with numbers.** They may be the names for abstract ideas or qualities or for physical objects that are too small or too amorphous to be counted (**liquids, powders, gases, etc.**). Uncountable nouns are used with a singular verb. **They usually do not have a plural form.**

### **EXAMPLES:**

Rice                      ~~10~~    ~~rices~~                      **some** rice

Sugar                      ~~15~~    ~~sugars~~

Water                      ~~20~~    ~~waters~~



We **cannot use** *a/an* with these nouns. To express a quantity of an uncountable noun, use a word or expression like **some, a lot of, much, a bit of, a great deal of**, or use an exact measurement like **a cup of, a bag of, 1kg of, 1L of, a handful of, a pinch of, an**

hour of, a day of. If you want to ask about the quantity of an uncountable noun, you ask "How much?" .

### Tricky spots

Be careful with some nouns that are kind of tricky like:

money, letucce, cheese, broccoli and some others.

You cannot say: "I have 20 money" but you can say: "I have 20 **dollars**"

You cannot say: "There are 2 cheese in the fridge" but you can say: "There are 20 *pieces/slices* of cheese in the fridge".

MONEY AND CHEESE ARE UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS BUT THEY BECAME COUNTABLE IN THE SECOND SENTENCE BECAUSE WE USED QUANTIFIERS "PIECES, SLICES, DOLLARS".