**Count and non-count nouns**

Some nouns are usually uncountable in English, but countable in other languages. Here are some of the most important of these:

|  |
| --- |
| advice chaos luggage progress trouble  bread furniture news scenery weather  behavior information permission traffic work |

These nouns are non-count, so you cannot use ‘a/an’ before them, and cannot be plural

Examples:

* Alfred gave me **some good advice**. (not ‘some good advices’)
* I’m going to buy **some bread**. (or ‘a loaf of bread’ but not ‘a bread’)
* Where did you buy all your **furniture**? (not ‘all your furnitures’)

Note that these pairs of countable and uncountable nouns:

I’m looking for **a job** (count) but I’m looking for **work.** (non-count)

What **a** lovely **view**! (count) but What lovely **scenery**! (non-count)

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**Much/How much vs. Many/How many**

**A**. We use much and little with uncountable nouns:

-much time -little money

-much luck -little energy

**B**. We use many and few with plural nouns:

- many friends -many people

-few cars -few countries

**C**. We use ‘a lot (of)’ or ‘lots (of)’ with uncountable and plural nouns:

-a lot of luck -a lot of money -a lot of people -lots of ideas -lots of books - a lot of time

**D**. We use **much** and **many** mainly in **negative** sentences and **questions:**

-We **don’t** spend **much** money. -Do you have **many** friends**?**

**-How much** money do you spend? -**How many** friends do you have?

**Important**: In positive sentences we better use ‘a lot of’, ‘much’ is unusual in positive sentences.

-We spent a lot of money for our anniversary. –There is a lot of rain.

(not ‘much money’) (not ‘much rain’)

But we use **too much** and **so much** in positive sentences.

Example:

-There is a lot of sugar in this coffee. Or -There is too much sugar in this coffee.

**Practice:**

**I.** Complete these sentences with ‘**much’**, ‘**many’**, or ‘**a lot** (**of**)’.

1. We have to hurry, we don’t have \_\_\_much\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ time.
2. Sam drinks \_\_\_\_a lot\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ beer, a six-pack a day.
3. She is a very quiet person. She doesn’t say \_\_\_\_much\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Gilbert put \_\_\_\_\_a lot\_\_of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ salt in his soup. Maybe too \_\_\_\_much\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_Many\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ people don’t like to fly.
6. Arthur is in the hospital now. He lost \_\_\_a lot\_\_\_of\_\_\_\_ blood.
7. In this town there isn’t \_\_\_\_much\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to do.
8. This car is expensive to run. It uses \_\_\_\_\_\_a lot\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of gasoline.
9. Don’t disturb me. I have \_\_\_\_\_\_a lot\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ work to do.
10. We didn’t take \_\_\_\_\_many\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ photographs on our vacation.

**II.** Ask questions using ‘**How** **much’** or ‘**How** **many’**.

1. How many bottles did you buy\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

I bought only two bottles.

1. How many CD’s do you want?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Three CD’s.

1. How much money do we need\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

As a matter of fact, we need just $200.

1. How much sugar do you put in your coffee?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

I always put 1 teaspoon in my coffee.

1. How many boxes have you eaten a day\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

I have never eaten more than a box in a day.

1. How many glasses do they drink?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

We usually have two cups in the morning.

1. How much milk do we have?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

There is no milk at all.

1. How much pizza do you want?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? (Pizza)

A slice will be enough.

1. How much do you buy in the market\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

He always buys a bunch.

1. How many interesting books do you have?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

Two interesting books.