

Business English 15: Countable and Uncountable



1. Read the dialogue below and answer the following questions.

Jennifer: Hi Peter, sorry I am late. There was so *much* traffic! How *much* time do you have?

Peter: That's fine Jennifer, but I have another meeting in *a few* minutes

Jennifer: Ok I need *some* information about the warehouse. How *many* boxes of shampoo are there?

Peter: There are *twenty* boxes of shampoo.

Jennifer: Ok great. Do you have *any* information about next month's delivery?

Peter: No, sorry I don't. I can ask David to send you an email about next month's delivery, he has *all* the information on his computer.

Jennifer: Thanks! Do you have a *little* time tomorrow afternoon for a quick phone call?

Peter: Sure, I am free between 10 and 11am.

Jennifer: Ok, I'll call you back tomorrow. Have a nice day Peter and sorry again for being late!

Peter: No problem Jennifer. Have a nice day. Bye!

Jennifer: Bye!



1. Why is Jennifer late?

.....

2. How much time does Peter have?

.....

3. Why is Jennifer calling Peter?

.....

4. How many boxes of shampoo are there?

.....

5. Does Peter have any information about next month's delivery?

.....

6. Who has the information about next month's delivery?

.....

7. What time is Peter available tomorrow?

.....

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Countable nouns can be counted.

For example: one book, two chairs, three lamps, four windows etc.

Uncountable nouns can't be counted and because they can't be counted we don't put them in plural form with an "s" on the end.

For example: money, information, time, water etc.

Note: You can't say *1 time* or *one money* but you can say "*1 minute*" or "*1 dollar*" because *time* and *money* are uncountable and *dollars* and *minutes* are countable.



2. Look at the nouns below and mark them as countable "C" or uncountable "UN"

1. chairs



2. time



3. coins



4. money



3. minutes



4. furniture



5. water



6. paperclips



7. information



8. pen



9. buildings



10. rubbish



The table below shows which words to use with countable or uncountable nouns.

Countable	For example
many	<i>How many books are there?</i>
a few	<i>There are a few books.</i>
1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc.	<i>There are 3 books.</i>

Uncountable	For example
much	<i>How much water is there?</i>
a little	<i>There is a little water.</i>

Both	For example
some	<i>There are some books. There is some water.</i>
a lot of	<i>There are a lot of books. There is a lot of water.</i>
any	<i>Are there any books? No, there aren't any books. Is there any water? No, there isn't any water.</i>



3. Complete the questions below with *much* or *many*.

- How people work at your company?
- How money do you have in your wallet?
- How information do you need when you go on holiday?
- How countries are there in the world?
- How desks are there in your office?
- How time do you spend on your break?
- How coffee do you drink per day?
- How litres of water do you drink per day?



4. Now work with a partner and ask and answer the questions from exercise 3.



5. Complete the sentences below with *a few* or *a little*.

- I need euros to buy a coffee.
- I'm feeling tired, I need to eat sugar.
- I need minutes to get ready for my presentation.

4. There are problems with the projects we are working on.
5. We need more time to improve the website.
7. I have questions to ask you.
8. I have ideas about how we can save money on this project.



6. Read the dialogue below and using the table on the previous page fill in the blanks with a correctly. Compare your answers with your partner. (Answers may be different)

Jennifer. Hello Paul, this is Jennifer from accounts. How are you?

Paul. Hello Jennifer, I am find thanks how are you?

Jennifer. I'm good. I am calling because I have a questions about our presentation in Paris tomorrow.

Paul. Sure, what do you need to know?

Jennifer. How people will be at the presentation?

Paul. I think there will be around people.

Jennifer. I see. How time do we have on stage?

Paul. We have minutes on stage.

Jennifer. Ok great. Do we have information about the hotel facilities? For example, are there printers available?

Paul. I don't have Information on that. It's a good question. I will call the hotel this afternoon and ask if they have printers and what other facilities are available.

Jennifer. Ok great. Thanks for that.

Paul. No problem Jennifer, I will call you back later this afternoon with the information.

Jennifer. Ok great. Thanks Paul, bye!

Paul. Bye!

