

## 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?  
.....*Because of traffic.* .....
2. How much time does Peter have?  
.....*Peter has a few minutes.* .....
3. Why is Jennifer calling Peter?  
.....*Jennifer needs some information about the warehouse.* .....
4. How many boxes of shampoo are there?  
.....*There are 20 boxes of shampoo.* .....
5. Does Peter have any information about next month's delivery?  
.....*No, he doesn't.* .....
6. Who has the information about next month's delivery?  
.....*David has the information about next month's delivery.* .....
7. What time is Peter available tomorrow?  
.....*Peter is available between 10 and 11 am 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

C



2. time

UN



3. coins

C



4. money

UN



3. minutes

C



4. furniture

UN



5. water

UN



6. paperclips

C



7. information

UN



8. pen

C



9. buildings

C



10. rubbish

UN



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 .....*many*..... people work at your company?
- How .....*much*..... money do you have in your wallet?
- How .....*much*..... information do you need when you go on holiday?
- How .....*many*..... countries are there in the world?
- How .....*many*..... desks are there in your office?
- How .....*much*..... time do you spend on your break?
- How .....*much*..... coffee do you drink per day?
- How .....*many*..... 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 .....*a few*..... euros to buy a coffee.
- I'm feeling tired, I need to eat .....*a little*..... sugar.
- I need .....*a few*..... minutes to get ready for my presentation.

4. There are ..... *a few*..... problems with the projects we are working on.
5. We need ..... *a little*..... more time to improve the website.
7. I have ..... *a few*..... questions to ask you.
8. I have ..... *a few*..... 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)



*Note to teacher: The answers in this exercise will vary. Comparing the answers can be a fun activity for the students. Make sure the variations are correct.*

*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 ..... *million/few*..... questions about our presentation in Paris tomorrow.

*Paul:* Sure, what do you need to know?

*Jennifer:* How ..... *many*..... people will be at the presentation?

*Paul:* I think there will be around ..... *1000*..... people.

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

*Paul:* We have ..... *a few/five* ..... minutes on stage.

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

*Paul:* I don't have ..... *any*..... Information on that. It's a good question. I will call the hotel this afternoon and ask if they have ..... *some/any*..... 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!

