

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Countable nouns are things that can be counted.

For example: “We have five *pizzas*” (pizza is a countable noun).

There are two main types of uncountable nouns:

1. Things that are difficult or impossible to count, such as water, rice, or sand.

For example: “There is so much sand on the beach.” ✓

“There are so many sands on the beach.” ✗

2. Things that are big ideas such as money, happiness, or time.

For example: “How much money do you have?” ✓

“How many moneys do you have?” ✗

Note: We cannot say ‘I have 20 moneys’ because “money” is uncountable. But we can count dollars, euros, or yen. For example:

“I have 20 dollars.” ✓

“I have 20 moneys.” ✗



1. With a partner decide if the nouns are countable or uncountable.

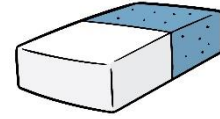
- a) Sugar is countable / uncountable.
- b) Doctor is countable / uncountable.
- c) Fun is countable / uncountable.
- d) Rain is countable / uncountable.
- e) Egg is countable / uncountable.
- f) Traffic is countable / uncountable.
- g) Music is countable / uncountable.
- h) Building is countable / uncountable.
- i) Information is countable / uncountable.
- j) Food is countable / uncountable.
- k) Work is countable / uncountable.
- l) Tree is countable / uncountable.



Some and Any

For single countable nouns, we use “a” or “an”. We use “an” if the noun starts with a vowel such as *a, e, i, o, u*.

For example: “Do you have a pencil?” or “Do you have an eraser?”



With uncountable nouns we often use *some* or *any*. “Some” is used with positive statements.

For example: “We have some food.”

“Any” is used with negative statements and questions.

For example: “We don’t have any food.” or “Do you have any food?”

Note: You can use “some” and “any” with plural countable nouns too.

For example: “Do you have any pets?” or “I have some eggs in my fridge.”



2. Complete the sentences with “a”, “an”, “some”, or “any.”

- a) I have *an* apple in my bag.
- b) She bought *some* milk from the shop.
- c) Do you have *any* money I can borrow?
- d) We didn’t buy *any* eggs today.
- e) He wants to eat *a* sandwich.
- f) I have *some* information you will find interesting.
- g) Would you like *some* water?
- h) Does he have *a* nice car?
- i) I’m sorry, I don’t have *any* work for you at the moment.
- j) My mom made *some* soup for dinner.



3. Read the conversation about a party and answer the questions below.

Alex: Hi Jordan, how much food do we need for this party?

Jordan: I don't know. How many people are coming?

Alex: I invited about 30 people, which is a lot of people.

Jordan: Yeah, maybe that is too many. How much space do you have?

Alex: My house is about 80 square meters, and I have a big garden.

Jordan: That's a lot of space, I think 30 people should be fine. How much food did you buy?

Alex: I bought 2 big bags of chips. Do you think that's enough?

Jordan: For 30 people? That's not enough. How much dip did you buy?

Alex: Well salsa was on sale at the supermarket, so I bought 5 litres of salsa.

Jordan: You bought 5 litres of salsa?? Alex that is way too much salsa. Especially if you only have 2 bags of chips!

Alex: I know, but it was on sale, and I love a good sale!

Jordan: Ok, but if you have 5 litres of salsa you need a lot more chips! How many chairs do we have?

Alex: Two.

Jordan: *Two* chairs and 30 people?? Alex where will people sit?

Alex: I want people to stand up and dance, so I don't want too many people sitting down. Dancing is so much more fun than just sitting around talking.

Jordan: Maybe for you, but not everyone likes dancing! Maybe for you, but not everyone likes dancing! I will bring 10 chairs, we still won't have many chairs, but 12 is better than 2.



- Why is Alex nervous about how many people he invited? *He thinks he invited too many people*
- Why did Alex buy so much salsa? *It was on sale*
- Why doesn't Alex want to have a lot of chairs at the party? *He wants people to dance*
- Which underlined word is used for countable nouns? *Many*
- Which underlined word is used for uncountable nouns? *Much*
- Which underlined word can be used for both countable and uncountable nouns? *A lot of*

Much and Many

We use “many” for nouns that are countable.

For example: “*How many friends do you have?*” (“friend” is a countable noun)

We use “much” for nouns that are uncountable.

For example: “*How much water do you have?*” (“water” is an uncountable noun)



4. Complete the sentences below with “much” or “many”

- a) How **much** water do you drink every day?
- b) There aren't **many / a lot of** types of pizza at this restaurant.
- c) I don't have **much / a lot of** time to finish this project.
- d) I didn't put **much / a lot of** salt in the soup.
- e) Do you know how **much** sugar is in this cake?
- f) We didn't see **many / a lot of** people at the park.
- g) Are there **many / a lot of** students in your class?
- h) How **much** information do we need before we make a choice?
- i) She has so **many** shoes, I can't believe it!
- j) They have too **many** problems right now.



5. Complete the questions below with “much” or “many” and then ask and answer them with a partner.

- a) How **many** people are there in your family?
- b) How **many** pets do you have?
- c) How **much** did your shoes cost?
- d) How **much** time does it take you to wake up?
- e) How **many** teachers do you have?
- f) How **many** friends do you have on Facebook?
- g) How **many** plants are in your house?
- h) How **much** energy do you have today?

A lot of

We can use “a lot of” for nouns that are countable *and* uncountable.

For example: “*She has a lot of pets* (countable), *and they cost a lot of money* (uncountable).”

This is easier than “much” or “many” because you do not have to think about if the noun is countable or uncountable. But we cannot use “a lot of” with “How many/much” questions.

For example: “*How many trees do you have in your garden?*” ✓

“*How a lot of trees do you have in your garden?*” ✗

We also cannot use “a lot of” to express that there is *too* much/many of a thing.

For example: “*I think we invited too many people to the party.*” ✓

“*I think we invited too a lot of people to the party.*” ✗



6. Complete the sentences below with “much”, “many”, or “a lot of.” More than one answer may be possible.

- a) There are chairs in the room.
- b) Our teacher gives us too homework.
- c) How meals do you eat every day?
- d) He doesn't have money to spend.
- e) They saw animals at the zoo.
- f) Wow, you have plants!
- g) There are too students in this classroom.
- h) Is there traffic on the way to school?
- i) How water do we need for the trip?
- j) I don't have friends in this city.
- k) She drank too coffee this morning, and now she can't sleep.
- l) How time will this take?





7. Complete the statement below with “much”, “many”, or “a lot of.” More than one answer may be possible.

"I live in a busy part of the city. There are people on the streets every day, and cars on the road. You can find shops, cafés, and restaurants in this area. tourists come here because it is very popular. I think there are too tourists. There isn't green space, but there is a small park where people can relax with of nice trees. At night, there is too noise, so it's not very quiet, but I like living here because there are things to do."



8. Now write your own statement about the area you live in. Try to use “much”, “many” and “a lot of.”

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

