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To: *Beginner English Class*

Topic: *Count and Non Count Nouns. Quantifiers | Session 18 (8/09/2016)*

## Countable Nouns

Count (or countable) nouns are simple to count. They may be singular or plural. For singular count nouns use **a**, **an**, **the**, or **one**. For plural count nouns, use a number, the article **the**, or no article at all. You may also use quantity words (*a lot, a little, some, many*). Never use **a** or **an** with a plural noun.

Singular	plural
A cat	cats
An orange	two oranges
One soldier	15 soldiers
The recipe	the recipes

## Non-Count Nouns

Non-count nouns are things that we generally do not count. Non-count nouns are always singular. Do not use an article with count nouns. You may use quantity words (a lot, a little, and especially some). Certain categories of nouns are usually non-count.

### Noncount Nouns

1. Things that come in very small pieces: *rice, salt, sand*
2. Wholes made up of similar parts: *food, furniture, luggage*
3. Names of subjects of study: *ESL, biology, mathematics*
4. Abstractions: *happiness, justice, luck*
5. Liquids/fluids: *blood, milk, water*
6. Gases: *carbon monoxide, hydrogen, oxygen*
7. Solids/minerals: *gold, ice, mercury*
8. Sports/types of recreation: *chess, tennis, soccer*
9. Natural phenomena: *dew, rain, snow*
10. Diseases: *measles, mumps, smallpox*

### NOTE:

Some uncountable nouns in English are countable in other languages. This can be confusing! Here is a list of some of the most common, easy to confuse uncountable nouns.

*Accommodation*  
*advice*  
*baggage*  
*bread*  
*equipment*

*furniture*  
*garbage*  
*information*  
*knowledge*  
*luggage*

*money*  
*news*  
*pasta*  
*progress*  
*research*

*travel*  
*work*



## Exercise 1

Read the nouns below. Decide if each noun is a count **(C)** or non-count **(N)** noun. Write the correct letter next to each word.

- \_\_\_ cheese
- \_\_\_ economics
- \_\_\_ boy
- \_\_\_ watch
- \_\_\_ rain
- \_\_\_ season
- \_\_\_ trash
- \_\_\_ snow
- \_\_\_ work
- \_\_\_ garbage
- \_\_\_ raindrop
- \_\_\_ homework
- \_\_\_ information
- \_\_\_ faith
- \_\_\_ essay

## Exercise 2

Place one of the words on the list before the nouns below. Use each word only once.

**piece / can / loaf / container / bottle / glass / box / gallon / pound / bowl**

- \_\_\_\_\_ coffee
- \_\_\_\_\_ milk
- \_\_\_\_\_ cereal
- \_\_\_\_\_ cookies
- \_\_\_\_\_ yogurt
- \_\_\_\_\_ bread
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ gas
- \_\_\_\_\_ peas
- \_\_\_\_\_ beer
- \_\_\_\_\_ candy

## What are quantifiers?

A quantifier is a word or phrase which is used before a noun to indicate the amount or quantity: **Some**, **many**, **a lot of** and **a few** are examples of quantifiers. Quantifiers can be used with both countable and uncountable nouns.

### Examples:

There are **some** books on the desk  
He's got only **a few** dollars.  
How **much** money have you got?  
There is **a large quantity of** fish in this river.  
He's got **more** friends **than** his sister.

### Examples of quantifiers with Uncountable Nouns

- a great deal of
- a large amount of
- a large quantity of
- much
- a little/little/very little \*
- a bit (of)



## With Both

- not any
- some
- any
- a lot of
- lots of
- plenty of
- all
- enough
- more/most
- less/least
- no/none

## With Countable Nouns

- a large number of
- a great number of
- a majority of
- many
- a few/few/very few \*\*
- a number (of)
- several

### \* NOTE

*few*, *very few* mean that there is not enough of something. **a few** means that there is not a lot of something, but there is enough.

### \*\* NOTE

**A little** or **very little** means that there is not enough of something. **A little** means that there is not a lot of something, but there is enough.

## Exercise 3

### Quantifiers Gap Fill Exercise

Choose a word from the table below to fill each space. Some words may be used more than once.

<i>a</i>	<i>a few</i>	<i>any</i>	<i>a little</i>	<i>much</i>	<i>a lot of</i>	<i>some</i>	<i>many</i>	<i>an</i>	<i>a lot</i>
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1. How \_\_\_\_\_ children do you and Tony have?
2. I don't have \_\_\_\_\_ patience and I find jigsaw puzzles boring.
3. We only have \_\_\_\_\_ carrots. We should go and buy some more.
4. Do we need any mushrooms? No, we have \_\_\_\_\_. Look, three bags!
5. There was an explosion at the factory and \_\_\_\_\_ people were injured. We don't know how many yet.
6. When you make the pie, put \_\_\_\_\_ wine in too. But not too much! It makes it really tasty.
7. When you go out, buy me \_\_\_\_\_ apple and a bottle of Coke.
8. I don't need \_\_\_\_\_ advice from you. You don't understand the problem!
9. Do you like this programme? Not \_\_\_\_\_. You can change the channel if you want.
10. Lots of people in Spain like to take \_\_\_\_\_ siesta during the hottest part of the day.
11. I have been to America \_\_\_\_\_ times. Twice in 1996 and again last year.
12. Can you give me \_\_\_\_\_ information about the buses in the city centre please?
13. \_\_\_\_\_ people think he is stupid, but he's actually quite intelligent.