

COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

NOUNS CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS	
COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE
<p>We can count <i>cat, woman, pencil child</i> *Have a plural form <i>cat/ cats woman/women</i> <i>pencil/pencils child/children</i> *Can have "a", "an" or number before them <i>I have a car</i> <i>My cousin has three children.</i></p>	<p>We cannot count <i>milk, safety, rice, happiness</i> * Have no plural form * Usually cannot have "a", "an" or a number before them <i>They like rice</i> <i>I wish you much happiness</i></p>

Countable nouns

Countable nouns refer to items that can be counted, even if the number might be extraordinarily high (like counting all the people in the world, for example). Countable nouns can be used with articles such as *a/an* and the or quantifiers such as *a few* and *many*. Look at the sentence below and pay particular attention to the countable noun:

Examples:

- *Here is a cat.*
- *Here are a few cats.*
- *Here are some cats.*

Cat is singular and countable.

Other examples of countable nouns include: *house, idea, hand, car, flower, and paper.*

Uncountable Nouns

Uncountable nouns are nouns that come in a state or quantity that is impossible to count; liquids are uncountable, as are things that act like liquids (sand, air). Abstract ideas like creativity or courage are also uncountable. Uncountable nouns are always considered to be singular, and can stand alone or be used with some, any, a little, and much. See the examples below for reference:

Examples:

- *An I.Q. test measures intelligence* **Correct**
 - *Students don't seem to have many homework these days.* **Incorrect**
- Intelligence is an uncountable noun.

Because homework is an uncountable noun, it should be modified by much or a lot of, not many.

- *Students don't seem to have much homework these days.* **Correct**
- *A lot of equipment is required to play hockey safely.* **Correct**

Since uncountable nouns are singular, they also require singular verbs. If you're ever trying to decide whether to write the *information is* or the *information are*, remember that *information is* an

