List of Uncountable Words

- money
- luggage
- baggage
- currency
- equipment
- information
- travel
- soap
- toothpaste
- food
- sugar
- rice
- butter
- flour
- advice
- knowledge
- progress
- research
- work
- leather
- wool
- wood
- coal
- oil
- gas
- weather
- homework
- cotton
- silk
- furniture
- patience
- impatience
- talent
- energy
- experience
- vinegar
- polish
- clothing
Countable and uncountable Words

Uncountable Nouns

Uncountable nouns are substances, concepts etc that we cannot divide into separate elements. We cannot "count" them. For example, we cannot count "milk". We can count "bottles of milk" or "litres of milk", but we cannot count "milk" itself. Here are some more uncountable nouns:

- music, art, love, happiness
- advice, information, news
- furniture, luggage
- rice, sugar, butter, water
- electricity, gas, power
- money, currency

We usually treat uncountable nouns as singular. We use a singular verb. For example:

- This news is very important.
- Your luggage looks heavy.

We do not usually use the indefinite article a/an with uncountable nouns. We cannot say "an information" or "a music". But we can say a something of:

- a piece of news
- a bottle of water
- a grain of rice

We can use some and any with uncountable nouns:

- I've got some money.
- Have you got any rice?

We can use a little and much with uncountable nouns:

- I've got a little money.
- I haven't got much rice.
UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Liquids: - water, oil, beer...

Powders and grains: - sugar, sand, salt, rice...

Materials: - glass, wood, plastic...

Foods that we cut: - meat, bread, watermelon...

General Emotions: - happiness, anger, ...

General Categories: - money, furniture, mail, jewelry...

Others: - information, homework, clothing, work, news, equipment, advice

Note that an uncountable noun can often be transformed into a countable noun by adding a quantifier.

Examples: - A cup of coffee.

- A bag of rice.

- A slice of bread.

- A piece of furniture

Examples: Do we have any milk?

- Yes, there is some milk in the refrigerator.

Did you have any difficulties getting here?

- No, I didn't have any difficulties.

Note: - The articles a/an are only used with singular countable nouns.

- The article the can be used with any type of noun, but the noun must be specifically defined.
**Countable Nouns**

Countable nouns refer to things that we can count. Such nouns can take either singular or plural form.

Concrete nouns may be countable.  
There are a dozen *flowers* in the vase.  
He ate *an apple* for a snack.

Collective nouns are countable.  
She attended three *classes* today.  
London is home to several *orchestras*.

Some proper nouns are countable.  
There are many *Greeks* living in New York.  
The *Vanderbilts* would throw lavish parties at their Newport summer mansion.

**Uncountable Nouns**

Uncountable nouns refer to things that we cannot count. Such nouns take only singular form.

Abstract nouns are uncountable.  
The price of *freedom* is constant vigilance.  
Her writing shows *maturity* and *intelligence*.

Some concrete nouns are uncountable (when understood in their undivided sense).  
The price of *oil* has stabilized recently.  
May I borrow some *rice*?

While uncountable nouns do not generally take a plural form, sometimes they may be pluralized when used in a countable sense. The difference between the uncountable and countable meanings of nouns that are used in either sense can be seen in the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uncountable Sense</th>
<th>Countable Sense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Art</strong> is often called an imitation of life.</td>
<td>I read a book about the folk <strong>arts</strong> of Sweden.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Life</strong> is precious.</td>
<td>A cat has nine <strong>lives</strong>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He likes to eat <strong>pizza</strong>.</td>
<td>How many <strong>pizzas</strong> should we order?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religion</strong> has been a powerful force in history.</td>
<td>Many <strong>religions</strong> are practiced in the United States.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
She has beautiful skin.

Dr. Moulton is an expert in ancient Greek sculpture.

We use only recycled paper in our office.

The hull of a kayak is made of animal skins.

We have several sculptures in our home.

Where are those important papers?

Using Articles with Countable and Uncountable Nouns

A countable noun always takes either the indefinite (a, an) or definite (the) article when it is singular. When plural, it takes the definite article if it refers to a definite, specific group and no article if it is used in a general sense.

The guest of honor arrived late.

You are welcome as a guest in our home.

The guests at your party yesterday made a lot of noise.

Guests are welcome here anytime.

Uncountable nouns never take the indefinite article (a or an), but they do take singular verbs. The is sometimes used with uncountable nouns in the same way it is used with plural countable nouns, that is, to refer to a specific object, group, or idea.

Information is a precious commodity in our computerized world.

The information in your files is correct.

Sugar has become more expensive recently.

Please pass me the sugar.

Categories of Uncountable Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Generic</th>
<th>Non-Plurals with -s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>advice</td>
<td>meat</td>
<td>fruit</td>
<td>mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
<td>rice</td>
<td>wildlife</td>
<td>economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information</td>
<td>bread</td>
<td>equipment</td>
<td>physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>knowledge</td>
<td>cake</td>
<td>machinery</td>
<td>civics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trouble</td>
<td>coffee</td>
<td>furniture</td>
<td>ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>work</td>
<td>ice cream</td>
<td>mail</td>
<td>mumps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>enjoyment</td>
<td>water</td>
<td>luggage</td>
<td>measles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fun</td>
<td>oil</td>
<td>jewelry</td>
<td>news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recreation</td>
<td>grass</td>
<td>clothing</td>
<td>tennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>relaxation</td>
<td>hair</td>
<td>money</td>
<td>(other games)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>