

Countable nouns

Countable nouns are the names of objects, people and places that can be counted. Examples are: *flower, boy, apple, book, tree, room, house, window* etc.

Countable nouns have singular and plural forms and can be used with indefinite articles (a / an) and numbers. Generally, a singular countable noun always takes an article or another determiner with it.

I saw a boy in the store. (BUT NOT I saw boy in store.)

The child was playing with his toy. (BUT NOT Child was playing with toy.)

A plural noun can be used with or without an article.

Children were playing in the park. (This style is preferred when you don't expect the listener to know which children you are talking about.)

OR The children were playing in the park. (This style is preferred when you are talking about children who have already been mentioned.)

Uncountable nouns refer to objects or ideas that cannot be counted. Examples are: *rice, sand, milk, honey, honesty, integrity* etc.

Uncountable nouns cannot be used with numbers. It is also not possible to use the articles a / an with uncountable nouns.

Uncountable nouns are always singular and should be used with a singular verb.

Honesty is the best policy. (NOT Honesty are the best policy.)

Rice is the staple food of Indians. (NOT Rice are the staple food of Indians.)

Note that some nouns which are countable in one language can be uncountable in another language. For example, the word grapes is a plural countable noun in English. However, it is uncountable in many other languages.