**countable or uncountable nouns**

A [noun](http://www.learnenglish.de/grammar/nountext.htm) can be countable or uncountable. Countable nouns can be "counted", they have a singular and plural form .For example:

* A book, two books, three books .....
* An apple, two apples, three apples ....

Uncountable nouns (also called mass nouns or noncount nouns) cannot be counted, they are not seperate objects. This means you cannot make them plural by adding -s, because they only have a singular form. It also means that they do not take a/an or a number in front of them.

For example:

* Water
* Information
* Coffee
* Sand

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| **Countable (use a/an or a number in front of countable nouns)** | **Uncountable (there is no a/an or number with uncountable nouns)** |
| An Apple / 1 Apple | Rice |
| *I eat an apple every day.* | *I eat rice every day.* (not I eat a rice every day.) |
| **Add (s) to make a countable noun plural** | **There is no plural form for an uncountable noun** |
| ***apples*** | ***Rice*** |
| *I eat****an apple****every day.****Apples are****good for you*. | *I eat****rice****every day.****Rice is****good for you.* |
| A computer=*Computers are fun.* | To make uncountable nouns countable add a counting word, such as a unit of measurement, or the general word piece. We use the form "a ....... of ......." |
| An elephant=*Elephants are large.* | Rice=*a grain of rice* |
|  | Water=*a glass of water* |
|  | Rain=*a drop of rain* |
|  | Music=*a piece of music* |
| **You can use some and any with countable nouns.** *Some dogs can be dangerous.* *I don't use any computers at work.* | **You can use some and any with uncountable nouns.** *I usually drink some wine with my meal. I don't usually drink any water with my wine.* |
| **You only use many and few with plural countable nouns.**  *So many elephants have been hunted that they are an endangered species.* *There are few elephants in England.* | **You only use much and little with uncountable nouns.** *I don't usually drink much coffee. Little wine is undrinkable though.* |
| **You can use a lot of and no with plural countable nouns.**  *No computers were bought last week.* *A lot of computers were reported broken the week before.* | **You can use a lot of and no with uncountable nouns.** *A lot of wine is drunk in France.* *No wine is drunk in Iran.* |