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Grammar Reference

Countable and uncountable nouns

A countable noun can be singular or plural, so it can be used with numbers. A singular countable noun cannot be used without “a, an, the, my, your, etc.” while a plural countable noun can stand alone.

Example:

one book **two** books
a spoon **three** spoons
Lisa is using **a spoon** to eat her soup.
David’s house has **three bedrooms**.
She doesn’t like **apples**.

An uncountable noun has only one singular form, so it cannot be used with numbers. An uncountable noun cannot be used with “a/an”. An uncountable noun can be used alone without “the, my, some .etc.

Example:

rice (not ~~two~~ rices)
oil (not ~~one~~ oil)
money (not ~~a~~ money)
We don’t need **oil** to fry this fish.
Can you cook **rice**?
Do you like **music**?

“Some” and “Any”

“Some” and “any” can also be used with plural countable nouns.

Example:

We ate **some apples** yesterday.
Did you peel **any potatoes**?

“Some” and “any” can be used with uncountable nouns.

Example:

They listened to **some music** last night.
Did you buy **any orange** juice?

“Many” and “A few”

“Many” and “a few” are used with plural countable nouns.

Example:

They will bring **many books**.
How **many tables** do you have in the restaurant?
I have a **few dishes** left in the kitchen.

“Much” and “A little”

“Much” and “a little” are used with uncountable nouns.

Example:

We didn’t do **much traveling** last year.
How **much juice** do you want?
I have a **little work** to do now.