**COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE**

**Countable** nouns are basically **things we can count**. For example, we can count pens; we can have one, two, three or more.

Countable nouns can be singular or plural.

My dog is playing  My dogs are playing.

We can use the indefinite article a/an with countable nouns:

A dog  A house  A bottle  A cup  A book

When a countable noun is singular we must use an article, pronoun, determiner with it:

A dog  My dog  The dog  This dog

When a countable noun is plural we can use it alone:

I have three dogs  Nowadays cars are made of plastic.

We can use some and any with countable nouns:

I have got some Euros.  Have you got any pens?

We can use a few and many with countable nouns.

I have got a few Euros.  I have got many pens.

‘People’ is a countable noun. ‘People’ is the plural of ‘person’. We can count people:

One person  Two people  One hundred people
Uncountable nouns are things that we cannot ‘count’, we cannot separate them. For example:

- Music
- Art
- Advice
- Information
- News
- Furniture
- Luggage
- Rice
- Sugar
- Butter
- Water
- Electricity
- Gas
- Power
- Money
- Currency
- Coffee
- Air
- French (people)
- Science
- Chemistry
- Fruit
- Food

We do not usually use a plural form with the uncountable nouns.

To make uncountable nouns countable, we use a countable expression in front of the noun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNCOUNTABLE</th>
<th>COUNTABLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>A bottle of water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>A bowl of rice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>A cup of coffee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand</td>
<td>A grain of sand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>A piece of information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sometimes you will see that English people use uncountable nouns in plural. That is because they are omitting the countable expression but it's implicit in the meaning:

- Can I have three coffees? (it means, three cups of coffee)
- I haven’t got any waters. (it means, I haven’t got any bottles of water)

We can use some and any with uncountable nouns.

- I have got some cheese left in the fridge.
- Have you got any strong coffee?

We can use a little and much with uncountable nouns.

- I had a little rice for dinner.
- I haven’t got much tea in my house. I don’t like it.
PRACTICE EXERCISE: COUNTABLE/UNCOUNTABLE

For the following sentences choose the only correct option.

2. I can't believe you haven't got A FEW / A LITTLE sugar for the coffee.
3. There's LITTLE / A LITTLE petrol in the car. I'll have to stop at the next petrol station.
4. We need to buy A / SOME new furniture for the house.
5. Can you put A / SOME paper in the printer, please?
6. Do you mind if I ask you FEW / A FEW questions?
7. We've got A / SOME meat but we haven't got A / ANY fish.
8. How many people have you sent SOME / A Christmas card?
10. My mother gave me A / SOME good advice yesterday.

YOU CAN PRINT THIS PAGE TO DO THE EXERCISE. THE ANSWERS WILL BE GIVEN TOMORROW.