

COUNT/NONCOUNT NOUNS

Count Nouns are nouns that can be counted. They refer to things that exist as separate individual units. Here are some examples of count nouns:

table	finger	bottle	apple
cat	chair	dog	egg
boy	cookie	pencil	onion

One way to figure out if the noun is count is to see if it makes sense with the following phrases:

I have one, two, three (noun).	[I have three cats.]
How many (noun) do you want?	[How many cookies do you want?]
Not too many. I want just a few (noun).	[I just want a few pencils.]
There aren't any (noun).	[There aren't any chairs.]
These (noun) are delicious!	[These apples are delicious!]

***If you can make the noun plural with an **-s** at the end of it, it is a count noun.*

Noncount Nouns refer to things that cannot be counted because they are thought of as wholes that can't be cut into parts. They also refer to ideas. Here are some examples of noncount nouns:

rice	bread	lettuce	flour
anger	weather	warmth	courage
milk	water	salt	education

The first way to figure out if the noun is noncount is to recognize that it doesn't sound right when you try to count it. Instead of using one, two, or three, use some. For example, you cannot say: I want three rices (incorrect). You must say, I want three **bowls of** rice, or I want **some** rice.

Another way to figure out if a noun is noncount is to see if it makes sense with the following phrases:

How much (noun) do you want?	[How much milk do you want?]
Not too much. Just a little (noun).	[Just a little salt.]
There isn't any (noun).	[There isn't any bread.]
This (noun) is beautiful!	[This weather is beautiful!]

Note: The word **some** can be used for both count and noncount nouns! For example, you can say: I want *some cookies*. You can also say: Could I have *some cheese*?



Some nouns can be both count and noncount depending on how they are used. Count nouns are used to mean very concrete, specific, and individual things. Noncount nouns are used to mean very abstract and general things or as a whole that cannot be divided up. Look at the following examples:

Count

The city was filled with bright lights. (specific lights)
The farmer has ten chickens. (each chicken is an individual unit)

Noncount

Light hurts her eyes, so she wears sunglasses. (light in general)
Would you like a piece of chicken? (the chicken is a whole unit)

Count/Noncount Noun Practice

Practice 1: If the noun is count put [C] in the blank. If it is noncount put [NC] in the blank. If the noun can be both count and noncount, put [B] in the blank.

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| ___ book | ___ banana | ___ biology | ___ shopping |
| ___ essay | ___ soda | ___ garbage | ___ anger |
| ___ boy | ___ disk | ___ smoking | ___ poetry |
| ___ pizza | ___ meat | ___ card | ___ happiness |

Practice 2: Circle the correct word.

Sally wants to make (dinner/dinners) for her family. She decided to make (chicken/chickens) stew. To make this, Sally needed the following ingredients, (a little/a few) salt, some (tomato/tomatoes), not too many (carrot/carrots), and five pieces of (chicken/chickens). She also needed some chicken (broth/broths). For dessert, Sally wanted to serve pieces of (cake/cakes).

Joe wanted to understand (beauty/beauties). He took a photography class. He bought a camera and three (roll, rolls) of film. He took (picture/pictures) of the sky and all the (flower/flowers) in the field. He also got some great (shot/shots) of a (mountain/mountains). Joe knew it would take a lot of (practice/practices) to be able to capture everything he saw with his (eye/eyes) and put it on (film/films).

Practice 1:
c, nc, nc, nc, nc, nc
nc, nc, nc,
c, c, c, c,
c, c, c, c,

Practice 2:
dinner carrots
a little chicken
broth chicken
tomatoes cake
beauty shots
rolls mountain
pictures eyes
flowers film