COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

TIIAME

We use nouns in English in two forms. One is countable nouns, the other one is uncountable nouns. It helps us to definite nouns in true and understandable way. Let's see them now.

1.COUNTABLE NOUNS

■ We can use countable nouns to make nouns in plural and we can use them with a/an articles.

Examples:

Singular Form

an apple

a house

an orange

a skirt

Plural Form

six apples

seven houses

ten oranges

two skirts

Singular Form

a baby

a computer

an umbrella

an elephant

an ice-cream

a room

a pillow

a tomatoes

Plural Form

three babies

eleven computers

four umbrella

eight elephant

five ice-creams

thirty rooms

nine pillows

ten kilos tomatoes

• We can use countable nouns with certain definition of numbers. ■ For example; two kilograms tomatoes, five dictionaries, seven group of cows, tons of oranges, three kilograms lemons, eighty students ect..

Some Examples with Countable Nouns

- My cousin has three babies.
- Esra had bought new four shoes for her sister.
- My dad eat about two kilograms apple in a week.
- □ There are five rooms in our house.
- My sister has a bird of which colors are green and yellow.
- □ I buy a book in every month for me.

- There is a castle in the center of the Kayseri.
- Emre has five boy friends in his room of dormitory.
- We saw an elephant in zoo last weekend.
- I have a toy of which name is tontiş.
- Ayşegül bought four kilograms potatoes to fry.
- There were thirty-three sultans in Ottoman Empire.
- Everybody has five fingers each of their hands.

2. UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

• We cannot use uncountable nouns in plural also we cannot use a/an articles with them.

Examples:

rice chicken salt

bread money pepper

cheese news coffee

water gold air

tea butter fish

Continuing the Examples:

sugar paper advice

fabric cancer snow

ice mathematics light

soap love sun

flower furniture basketball

We can use some definitions with uncountable nouns. ■ For example; a cup of tea, a glass of milk, a piece of butter, a bar of chocolate, a block of ice, a cube of sugar, a loaf of bread, a roll of fabric, a bunch of flowers, a bundle of papers ect.

Some Examples with Uncountable Nouns

- □ I drink a cup of coffee in everyday.
- There is any sugar in the kitchen.
- My mother buy seven bottles of milk for a week.
- □ She eats a bar of chocolate whenever she wants.
- □ He met me with a bunch of flower in his arms.
- □ There is so much butter in this meal.
- Everybody feels the love inside himself.

- □ We have a group of furniture in our house.
- They wanted some salt for their plumbs.
- In summer, I like drinking water with a block of ice.
- I bought a pocket of tea for my guests.
- □ There was so much snow that we all were cold when we were outside.
- □ The room has little ligth. We nearly can see each other.

Notice the following categories and examples of uncountable nouns;

- Abstractions: chance, energy, honesty, love...
- Activities: basketball, dancing, singing, tennis...
- Diseases: AIDS, cancer, influenza, malaria...
- Foods: beef, bread, fish, fruit, meat...
- Gases: air, carbon dioxide, oxygen, smoke...
- Liquids: coffee, gasoline, milk, tea, water...
- Natural phenomena: electricity, heat, rain, thunder...

- Occupations: dentistry, nursing, teaching...
- Particles: dust, pepper, salt, sand, sugar...
- Solid elements: gold, iron, plutonium, silver...
- Subjects: Chinese, English, physics, science...
- Others: equipment, furniture, money, news...

There are some nouns we can use in both countable and uncountable form;

Countable Meaning

- □ There is **a hair** in my soup
- □ **A chicken** escaped from the henhouse.
- My favorite works of art are from China.

Uncountable Meaning

- Sandra has black and long hair.
- □ We had **chicken** for dinner.
- It takes work to prepare a meal.

Making uncountable nouns countable;

We frequently make uncountable nouns countable by adding a phrase that gives them a form, a limit, or a container.

Examples:

Uncountable Form

furniture

Lightning

Meat

Rice

Tennis

Thunder

Water

Countable Form

a piece of furniture

a flash of lightning

a piece of meat

a grain of rice

a game of tennis

a clap of thunder

a cup of water

Using without an addition:

■ We use many uncountable nouns in a countable sense without the addition of a phrase (such as "a piece of"). We can use these nouns with a/an or in plural to mean kind/type/variety of.

Examples:

- Do you like pasta?
- In Italy, I tasted a new pasta.
- I drink tea every morning.
- That shop has many different teas.

A note!

A/and articles and plurals can also be used to indicate discrete amounts.

- For example;
- I drank a soda.
- Please bring us two orange juices.

Let's do some exercises on these topics...

Read this letter. There are 12 mistakes in the use of countable and uncountable nouns. The first mistake is already corrected. Find and correct 11 more.

GOOD LUCK..

Miramar Ipanema Hotel

Dear kids,

Your mom and I are having a wonderful time in Brazil. We landed in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday as scheduled and made it to our hotel without any problems. On Wednesday we walked and sunbathed on Copacabana and Ipanema beaches. The only problem was that I dropped my camera and got sands in it, and now it is not working. Actually, there's one other problem: We don't have enough furnitures in our hotel room. There's no place to put anything. But everything else has been great. We went to a samba show, and even though it was intended for tourist, it was a lot of fun.

The first wrong is "sands". We should tell "sand". But there is still 11 mistakes...

The Brazilian people is very friendly and helpful. On Friday we had a flight to São Paulo scheduled for 9:00 a.m., and we missed the bus and couldn't get a taxi. But we were saved by one of the hotel employee, who gave us a ride to the airport. We got there just in time. Now we're in San Paulo. It's an exciting place, but I can't get over the traffics. It took two hour to get from our hotel to the downtown area. Yesterday we had lunch at a famous restaurant where they serve feijoda, which is typical Brazilian foods. It had so much spice in that our mouths were on fire, but it was delicious. Tonight we're going to have dinner at another restaurant where they serve all kinds of meat. They raise a lot of cattle in Brazil, and meats are very popular. This restaurant is one of the most famous ones.

The other thing about Brazil that's really interesting is the amount of coffee the Brazilians drink. They have little cups of coffees several times a day—called caffezinho. We tried it; it's very strong and sweet.

That's all for now. Your mom hasn't had a time to go shopping yet, which is good. You know how much I hate shopping.

Love, Dad

- Could you find the mistakes?
- Let's look them..

We should tell "any problem" not "any problems", "furniture" not "furnitures", "place" not "places", "tourists" not "tourist", "people are" not "people is", "traffic" not "traffics"," two hours" not "two hour", "kind of" not "kinds of", "meat is" not "meats are", "famous one" not "famous ones", "cups of coffee" not "cups of coffees".

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