

# Count Vs. Non-Count Nouns

## Table of Contents

- 2 QUICK AND HANDY GRAMMAR REVIEW**  
**Count Vs. Non-Count Nouns**
- 5 EXERCISE 1**  
*Decide if each noun is a count or non-count noun.*
- 6 EXERCISE 2**  
*Place one of the words from the list before each noun.*
- 6 EXERCISE 3**  
*Correct the errors.*
- 8 EXERCISE 4**  
*Place a, an, or some before the nouns.*
- 8 EXERCISE 5**  
*Place is or are after the nouns.*
- 9 ANSWER KEY**

# Quick and Handy Grammar Review

## COUNT VS. NON-COUNT NOUNS

**Nouns** are a basic part of speech in a language. Nouns are people, places, things, ideas, or concepts. Nouns may function as the subject of a sentence, as the object of a verb, or as the object of a preposition.

### A. The Four Types of Nouns

There are four types of nouns in English:

#	Type of Noun	Description	Examples
1	common nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>words for general people, places, or things</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>book</li> <li>window</li> <li>cafeteria</li> <li>teller</li> <li>teacher</li> <li>streets</li> <li>cars</li> <li>remote control</li> <li>police officer</li> </ul>
2	proper nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>names of specific people, places, or things</li> <li>when <i>the</i> is used with a proper noun, <i>the</i> is usually in the lower case (not capitalized)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veronica</li> <li>Chile</li> <li>Seoul</li> <li>Disneyland</li> <li>the Bradens</li> <li>the New York Times</li> <li>Boardwalk Empire</li> <li>Jennifer Lopez</li> <li>Prof. Lenore Sinclair</li> </ul>
3	collective nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>singular words that refer to groups of people or animals</li> <li>either common or proper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>team</li> <li>family</li> <li>committee</li> <li>congress</li> <li>herd (of cows)</li> <li>the Rodriguez family</li> <li>the New York Yankees</li> </ul>
4	abstract nouns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>words for ideas or concepts (we know they exist, but we can't use our sense of <i>touch</i>, <i>hearing</i>, <i>sight</i>, <i>taste</i>, or <i>smell</i> to find them)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>love</li> <li>hate</li> <li>honesty</li> <li>faith</li> <li>freedom</li> <li>patience</li> <li>joy</li> <li>responsibility</li> <li>fidelity</li> <li>dislike</li> <li>loyalty</li> </ul>

## Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

### B. Count Nouns

Count (or countable) nouns are simple to count. They may be singular or plural. For singular count nouns, use *a*, *an*, *the*, or *one*. For plural count nouns, use a number, the article *the*, or no article. You may also use quantity words (*a lot*, *a few*, *some*, *many*). Never use *a* or *an* with a plural count noun.

#### Singular

- a cat
- an orange
- one soldier
- the recipe

#### Plural

- cats
- two oranges
- 15 soldiers
- the recipes

### C. Non-Count Nouns

Non-count (or uncountable) nouns are things that we generally do not count. Non-count nouns always take a singular verb. Do not use the articles *a*, *an*, or *one* with non-count nouns. You may use quantity words (*a lot*, *a little*, and especially *some*). You can use the article *the* if the non-count noun is specific/definite. Certain categories of nouns are usually non-count.

Abstract ideas and feelings	School subjects	Terms composed of tiny parts	Collective nouns referring to things
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advice</li> <li>• information</li> <li>• beauty</li> <li>• intelligence</li> <li>• faith</li> <li>• joy</li> <li>• freedom</li> <li>• love</li> <li>• happiness</li> <li>• luck</li> <li>• hate</li> <li>• news</li> <li>• honesty</li> <li>• vocabulary</li> <li>• work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• biology</li> <li>• physics</li> <li>• criminal justice</li> <li>• psychology</li> <li>• Spanish</li> <li>• economics</li> <li>• statistics</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• health</li> <li>• physical education</li> <li>• writing</li> <li>• mathematics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• coffee</li> <li>• rice</li> <li>• flour</li> <li>• salt</li> <li>• sugar</li> <li>• pepper</li> <li>• tea</li> <li>• water</li> <li>• sand</li> <li>• rain</li> <li>• snow</li> <li>• hair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clothing</li> <li>• food</li> <li>• furniture</li> <li>• garbage</li> <li>• money</li> <li>• homework</li> <li>• music</li> <li>• jewelry</li> <li>• equipment</li> <li>• makeup</li> <li>• traffic</li> <li>• mail</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> <i>email</i> is a count noun.</p>



## Quick and Handy Grammar Review cont.

### C. Non-Count Nouns cont.

Food items	Minerals	Liquids and gases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bread</li> <li>• pasta</li> <li>• butter</li> <li>• soup</li> <li>• cheese</li> <li>• chocolate</li> <li>• fruit</li> <li>• fish</li> <li>• meat</li> <li>• beef</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• copper</li> <li>• tin</li> <li>• gold</li> <li>• iron</li> <li>• silver</li> <li>• steel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• air</li> <li>• pollution</li> <li>• fog</li> <li>• wind</li> <li>• beer</li> <li>• soup</li> <li>• milk</li> <li>• water</li> <li>• oil</li> <li>• oxygen</li> </ul>

To talk about quantities with non-count nouns, use *a/an/the + measure word + of + non-count noun*. Below are some examples.

Measure Word	Example	Measure Word	Example
bag	a bag of flour	glass	a glass of milk
bottle	a bottle of juice	jar	a jar of honey
bowl	a bowl of fruit	loaf	a loaf of bread
box	a box of cereal	piece	a piece of cake
bunch	a bunch of snow	pound	two pounds of coffee
can	a can of corn	slice	a slice of pie
container	a container of rice	tablespoon	a tablespoon of vanilla
cup	a cup of tea	teaspoon	a teaspoon of salt
gallon	four gallons of water		

## Exercise 1

Read the nouns below. Decide if each noun is count (**C**) or non-count (**N**). Write the correct letter next to each word.

- |       |     |             |       |     |           |       |     |            |
|-------|-----|-------------|-------|-----|-----------|-------|-----|------------|
| _____ | 1.  | advice      | _____ | 16. | cheese    | _____ | 31. | flour      |
| _____ | 2.  | program     | _____ | 17. | economics | _____ | 32. | English    |
| _____ | 3.  | news        | _____ | 18. | boy       | _____ | 33. | ocean      |
| _____ | 4.  | necklace    | _____ | 19. | watch     | _____ | 34. | leaf       |
| _____ | 5.  | color       | _____ | 20. | rain      | _____ | 35. | bag        |
| _____ | 6.  | orange      | _____ | 21. | season    | _____ | 36. | sleet      |
| _____ | 7.  | email       | _____ | 22. | trash     | _____ | 37. | milk       |
| _____ | 8.  | hope        | _____ | 23. | snow      | _____ | 38. | soldier    |
| _____ | 9.  | ring        | _____ | 24. | work      | _____ | 39. | child      |
| _____ | 10. | file        | _____ | 25. | garbage   | _____ | 40. | carrot     |
| _____ | 11. | hate        | _____ | 26. | raindrop  | _____ | 41. | snowflake  |
| _____ | 12. | jewelry     | _____ | 27. | homework  | _____ | 42. | fidelity   |
| _____ | 13. | information | _____ | 28. | happiness | _____ | 43. | loyalty    |
| _____ | 14. | partner     | _____ | 29. | faith     | _____ | 44. | impatience |
| _____ | 15. | music       | _____ | 30. | essay     | _____ | 45. | peach      |

## Exercise 2

Place one of the words from the list before each noun below.  
Use each word from the list only once.

- |          |           |           |       |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| 1. _____ | coffee    | 6. _____  | bread |
| 2. _____ | milk      | 7. _____  | gas   |
| 3. _____ | ice cream | 8. _____  | tuna  |
| 4. _____ | cereal    | 9. _____  | Coke  |
| 5. _____ | yogurt    | 10. _____ | candy |

**Word List**

- piece
- can
- loaf
- container
- bottle
- glass
- box
- gallon / liter
- cup
- bowl

## Exercise 3

Find the error(s) in each sentence, then rewrite the correct sentences below.

1. The news on Channel 46 are always bad.

---

2. Rosa's hairs are long and blonds and her clothes is very stylish.

---

3. The advisor gave me the wrong informations. Her advices were incorrect.

---

4. I bought two cheeses and three milks.

---

5. Henry drank two teas.

---

6. Statistics are a difficult class.

---

7. Hye Lim's favorite subject is a biology.

---

## Exercise 3 cont.

8. The sands on Waikiki Beach are golden.

---

9. Jim gave his girlfriend two golds for her birthday.

---

10. The clothing in the new store at the mall are very expensive.

---

11. Hank wants to give you some advices, but the informations are not available.

---

12. Two mens and three womens are dancing in the hall.

---

13. Heera needs a paper. She heard a good news, and she wants to write two letter.

---

14. A love is stronger than a hate.

---

15. Martha says the beauty is not as important as the intelligence in a partner.

---

16. Coffee has many caffeines, so they keep me awake.

---

17. The Argentine peoples is very generous.

---

18. Harvey had a bad accident. He hurt his feets.

---

19. I cooked fishes for dinner.

---

20. How many furniture are there in your apartment?

---

## Exercise 4

Place **a**, **an**, or **some** before the following nouns.

- |                      |                      |                     |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. _____ mail        | 11. _____ friend     | 21. _____ problem   |
| 2. _____ advice      | 12. _____ sand       | 22. _____ love      |
| 3. _____ apple       | 13. _____ piece      | 23. _____ partner   |
| 4. _____ traffic     | 14. _____ news       | 24. _____ music     |
| 5. _____ hair        | 15. _____ girl       | 25. _____ classmate |
| 6. _____ information | 16. _____ email      | 26. _____ women     |
| 7. _____ job         | 17. _____ message    | 27. _____ book      |
| 8. _____ work        | 18. _____ hard drive | 28. _____ ant       |
| 9. _____ assignment  | 19. _____ bus        | 29. _____ rice      |
| 10. _____ homework   | 20. _____ cheese     | 30. _____ pen       |

## Exercise 5

Place **is** or **are** after the following nouns.

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Six women _____                  | 11. Faith _____                   |
| 2. The mail _____                   | 12. Five emails _____             |
| 3. Economics _____                  | 13. Physics _____                 |
| 4. Milk _____                       | 14. Three bowls _____             |
| 5. Tigers _____                     | 15. Sugar _____                   |
| 6. The team _____                   | 16. The army _____                |
| 7. <i>The Washington Post</i> _____ | 17. The movie <i>Frozen</i> _____ |
| 8. Coffee _____                     | 18. Patience _____                |
| 9. The boys and girls _____         | 19. The Obamas _____              |
| 10. Salt _____                      | 20. The grammar books _____       |