

What is an uncountable noun?

Countable nouns are nouns which can be counted in numbers. For example, one house / two houses. When we use countable nouns, we use the article "a" and the plural "s" (a house, two houses).

Uncountable nouns are nouns which can't be counted. For example, information. It is not possible to say one information/ two informations. The word "information" can't be counted using numbers. It can never have a plural "s". It can never have an article "a" or "an". And it can never be quantified with any number.

What types of uncountable nouns are there?

Most uncountable nouns relate to:

- liquids (milk, water)
- abstract ideas (advice, chaos, motivation)
- powder and grain (rice, wheat, sand)
- mass nouns (furniture, hair, transportation)
- natural phenomena (sunshine, snow, rain, weather)
- states of being (sleep, stress, childhood)
- feelings (anger, happiness, enthusiasm, courage)
- gas (oxygen, air)

Uncountable Nouns & Grammar

How much ...? = uncountable nouns / How many ...? = countable nouns /

These = countable / This = uncountable

many = countable / a lot of = uncountable

not many = countable / not much uncountable (we use "much" with negative uncountable nouns)

To express an amount of an uncountable noun, you must use other words.

some information = a piece of information

some clothing = one item of clothing / two items of clothing

some equipment = a piece of equipment / two pieces of equipment

some water = a cup of water / two glasses of water

Uncountable Noun List

A-F	G - M	N-S	T - Z
accommodation	genetics	nature	tea
advertising	gold	news	tennis
air	grammar	nutrition	time
aid	guilt	obesity	tolerance
advice	hair	oil	trade
anger	happiness	old age	traffic
art	harm	oxygen	transportation
assistance	health	paper	travel
bread	heat	patience	trust
business	help	permission	understanding
butter	homework	pollution	unemployment
calm	honesty	poverty	usage
cash	hospitality	power	violence
chaos	housework	pride	vision
cheese	humour	production	warmth
childhood	imagination	progress	water
clothing	importance	pronunciation	wealth
coffee	information	publicity	weather
content	innocence	punctuation	weight
corruption	intelligence	quality	welfare
courage	jealousy	quantity	wheat
currency	juice	racism	width
damage	justice	rain	wildlife
danger	kindness	relaxation	wisdom
darkness	knowledge	research	wood
data	labour	respect	work
determination	lack	rice	yoga
economics	laughter	room	youth
education	leisure	rubbish	
electricity	literature	safety	
employment	litter	salt	
energy	logic	sand	
entertainment	love	seafood	
enthusiasm	luck	shopping	
equipment	magic	silence	
evidence	management	sleep	
failure	metal	smoke	
fame	milk	snow	
fire	money	software	
flour	motherhood	soup	
food	motivation	speed	
freedom	music	spelling	
friendship		sport	
fuel		strength	
furniture		stress	
fun		success	
		sugar	
		sunshine	

Irregular Uncountable Nouns

Some nouns can be both countable and uncountable. See my website www.ieltsliz.com (vocabulary page) for details and explanations.

Uncountable nouns which can also be countable: hair / light / business / paper / time / work / room

Practice with Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Fill in the gaps using one of the following: many / much / a lot of.

1. wildlife are losing their habitation due to deforestation.
2. I haven't heard news about the recent events in Europe.
3. There aren't sports lessons offered in the school curriculum.
4. I can't go out tonight because I've got work.
5. It is often thought that people who have only traveled in their own country don't have tolerance for others compared to people who have been abroad.
6. literature that students read at school is classical.
7. education policies are designed to protect students but ensure a high level of learning.

Fill in the gaps with one of the following: is / are.

1. Silence essential in libraries to ensure that people can concentrate on what they are reading.
2. There a lot of company advertising during major sports events.
3. Shopping one of the most popular leisure activities for women.
4. There a lot of information available online about IELTS.
5. There a lot of traffic in city centers during rush hour.
6. There not enough money spent on research for cancer.
7. Water essential for plants to thrive.
8. I think that childhood one of the best times of a person's life.
9. The management procedures difficult to understand.
10. Not enough aid given to third world countries.

Answers

Please see my blog for answers: www.ieltsliz.com/vocabulary (see the uncountable noun page)