

Countable nouns

Countable nouns have a singular and a plural form and take a singular or plural verb.

Form

Countable nouns

Example

shop / shops

There are over 100 **shops** in the new shopping centre.

baby / babies

They've got some great toys for **babies** in there.

dish / dishes

We need to get some new **dishes** for this evening.

Helpful hints

We use these words with countable nouns:

- a, an • many
- a few • one, two, etc

Watch out!

A few countable nouns have irregular plurals. They include:

- one child, two children
- one person, two people
- one foot, two feet
- one tooth, two teeth
- one man, two men
- one woman, two women

Uncountable nouns

We cannot count some nouns (*uncountable nouns*). They do not have a plural form and take a singular verb, even if they end in -s.

Form

Some uncountable nouns

Example

advice, bread, fruit, furniture,

My **money is** in my wallet.

hair, homework, information,

Your **hair is** really long!

money, news, paper, rice, work

The **news was** a complete shock.

Helpful hints

We use these words with uncountable nouns:

- a little • much
- a bit of • a piece of

We use these words with both countable and uncountable nouns:

- a lot of • some • lots of • the

We can use *any* in questions and negative statements with both uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns:

- Have we got **any** homework today?
- There aren't **any** eggs left.

Watch out!

- There are a few uncountable nouns that are plural and are followed by a plural verb. Be careful with the following words.

- clothes
 - ✓ Your clean **clothes are** on the bed.
- jeans
 - ✓ Your new **jeans look** great!

- Some nouns are uncountable with one meaning and countable with another meaning.
 - ✓ Get me some **paper** when you go to the shops. (= a packet of paper to write on)
 - ✓ Get me **a paper** when you go to the shops. (= a newspaper)