

Count and Noncount Nouns

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What is a Noun?

1. Person (Brother, sister, child, Cedric, etc.)
2. Animal (dog, cat, lion, elephant, etc.)
3. Place (library, school, park, store, etc.)
4. Thing (pen, car, computer, table, etc.)
5. Feeling or idea (usually abstract) (happiness, anger, sadness, freedom, peace, etc.)

Count Nouns

1. Refer to items that can be counted individually or separately

One car, two cars, three cars, etc.

One chair, two chairs, three chairs, etc.

One dog, two dogs, three dogs, etc.

2. Must be preceded by a determiner (a quantifier, an article, a possessive noun, or a possessive adjective)

One car, a car, Johanna's car, her car)

One apple, an apple, Fred's apple, his apple)

Count Nouns (Continued)

3. Can have a plural form

Two cars, many chairs, ten dogs, a few computers, a lot of pens

Noncount Nouns

1. Refer to items that cannot be counted individually or separately:
 - Eight common categories:
 - ❖ Abstract concepts (knowledge, love, information, advice, happiness, education, etc.)
 - ❖ Masses or groups (equipment, luggage, traffic, homework, money, clothing, etc.)
 - ❖ Food (milk, pizza, rice, coffee, sugar, meat, bread, etc.)
 - ❖ Substances (air, water, oxygen, fire, wood, blood, silver, etc.)
 - ❖ Activities and games (dancing, swimming, reading, soccer, basketball, tennis, etc.)

Noncount Nouns (Continued)

- ❖ Diseases (diabetes, polio, malaria, AIDS, Covid-19, Ebola, etc.)
- ❖ Fields of study (economics, linguistics, history, math, engineering, business, etc.)
- ❖ Languages (English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Swahili, Japanese, Spanish, etc.)

Noncount Nouns (Continued)

2. Can NEVER be preceded by an article (Can be preceded by a possessive adjective, a possessive noun, or a quantifier)

A knowledge → **Incorrect**

Knowledge, my knowledge, Paula's knowledge, a lot of knowledge → **Correct**

A bread → **Incorrect**

Bread, my bread, Paul's bread, some bread → **Correct**

3. Can NEVER be plural

Equipments → **Incorrect**

Advices → **Incorrect**

Homework → **Incorrect**

Practice: Circle all the noncount nouns!

Answer Key

hockey	student	furniture	salt	computer	Vietnamese
German	gold	mouse	bag	teacher	geography
tooth	toy	box	ice	traffic	smoking
house	bottle	wine	chess	news	health
cancer	book	library	jewelry	air	finger

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