

Nouns can be countable or uncountable. Countable nouns can be counted, e.g. *an apple, two apples, three apples*, etc. Uncountable nouns cannot be counted, e.g. *air, rice, water*, etc. When you learn a new noun, you should check if it is countable or uncountable and note how it is used in a sentence.

Countable nouns

For positive sentences we can use *a/an* for singular nouns or *some* for plurals.

*There's **a** man at the door.*

*I have **some** friends in New York.*

For negatives we can use *a/an* for singular nouns or *any* for plurals.

*I don't have **a** dog.*

*There aren't **any** seats.*

Uncountable nouns

Here are some examples of uncountable nouns:

<i>bread</i>	<i>rice</i>	<i>coffee</i>	
<i>money</i>	<i>advice</i>	<i>luggage</i>	

We use *some* with uncountable nouns in positive sentences and *any* with negatives.

*There's **some** milk in the fridge.*

*There isn't **any** coffee.*

Questions

In questions we use *a/an*, *any* or *how many* with countable nouns.

*Is there **an** email address to write to?*

*Are there **any** chairs?*

***How many** chairs are there?*

And we use *any* or *how much* with uncountable nouns.

*Is there **any** sugar?*

***How much** orange juice is there?*

But when we are offering something or asking for something, we normally use *some*.

*Do you want **some** chocolate?*

*Can we have **some** more chairs, please?*

We also use *some* in a question when we think the answer will be 'yes'.

*Have you got **some** new glasses?*

Other expressions of quantity

A lot of (or *lots of*) can be used with both countable and uncountable nouns.

*There are **lots of** apples on the trees.*

*There is **a lot of** snow on the road.*

Notice that we don't usually use *many* or *much* in positive sentences. We use *a lot of* instead.

*They have **a lot of** money.*

However, in negative sentences we use *not many* with countable nouns and *not much* with uncountable nouns.

*There are a lot of carrots but there **aren't many** potatoes.*

*There's lots of juice but there **isn't much** water.*