



A1 Nouns Explanations

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Singular and Plural Nouns

We use a singular noun when there's one of something. We use a plural noun when there's more than one of something.

We usually make plural nouns by adding 's'.

- One book (singular noun) → two books (plural noun).
- One shop → two shops.

However, if a noun ends in 'consonant + y', we take off the 'y' and add 'ies'.

- One baby → two babies.
- One city → two cities.

On the other hand, if a noun ends in 'vowel + y', we just add 's' in the normal way.

- One day → two days.

If a noun ends in 's', 'z', 'x', 'sh' or 'ch', we add 'es'.

- One bus → two buses.
- One dish → two dishes.
- One fox → two foxes.
- One church → two churches.

Some nouns that end in 'o' have 'es' in the plural.

- One tomato → two tomatoes.
- One potato → two potatoes.
- One hero → two heroes.



There are some irregular plurals.

- One child → two children
- One man → two men
- One woman → two women
- One foot → two feet
- One sheep → two sheep



Countable and Uncountable Nouns

There are two types of common noun: countable and uncountable. It's very important to know the difference.

Countable nouns are often things that can easily be counted, for example, book, footballer, bus. They usually change their form for a plural (bus -> buses). Countable nouns can be used with a singular verb (when there is one of the noun) or a plural verb (when there is more than one of the noun). We often use 'a / an' with singular countable nouns.

- One book is on the table.
- Two books are on the table.

On the other hand, uncountable nouns are often things which can't easily be counted, like love, rice or happiness. Uncountable nouns do not make a plural form, and they are always used with a singular verb. They usually can't be used with 'a/an'.

- Rice is delicious.

Countable and uncountable nouns can be different in different languages, so it's not always the case that a word that's uncountable in one language will also be uncountable in English. Watch out for 'information' and 'homework'.

Here are some common uncountable nouns:

1. air
2. cash
3. cereal
4. coffee
5. dirt
6. dust
7. electricity
8. equipment



9. evidence
10. fun
11. furniture
12. happiness
13. health
14. help
15. homework
16. housework
17. information
18. juice
19. knowledge
20. luck
21. luggage
22. money
23. news
24. oil
25. pasta
26. patience
27. research
28. rice
29. rubbish
30. salt
31. sand
32. spaghetti
33. spinach
34. tea
35. toothpaste
36. traffic
37. transport
38. travel
39. water
40. work



Quantity Words with Uncountable Nouns

We often use quantity words (like 'piece' or 'slice') with 'of' and uncountable nouns.

These quantity words are countable nouns and can be used with 'a / an' and numbers.

- a bit of cake (two bits of cake)
- a slice of cheese (two slices of cheese)
- a piece of furniture (two pieces of furniture)
- a bar of chocolate (two bars of chocolate)
- a bag of flour (two bags of flour)
- a mug of tea (two mugs of tea)
- a bottle of juice (two bottles of juice)
- a cup of coffee (two cups of coffee)
- a tube of toothpaste (two tubes of toothpaste)
- a loaf of bread (two loaves of bread)
- a glass of wine (two glasses of wine)
- a kilo of rice (two kilos of rice)
- a litre of water (two litres of water)



A or An?

We choose 'a' or 'an' depending on the pronunciation of the next word.

We use 'a' before consonant sounds, and 'an' before vowel sounds. Normally, words that start with 'a / e / i / o / u' start with a vowel sound.

However, some words sound different from how they are written. For example, we use 'a' for some words, because they sound like they start with 'y'.

- A university.
- A European country.
- A uniform.

We use 'an' for some words, because they sound like they start with 'o'.

- An hour.
- An honest man.



A / An with Jobs and To Say What Something Is

When we say what something is, we usually use 'a/an' for singular countable nouns and no article for plural nouns or uncountable nouns.

- That is an app to track your sleep.
- Those are fried eggs.
- That is brown rice.

This includes when we say people's jobs or when we say that people belong to a certain group.

- She is a teacher.
- He is a vegetarian.
- They are teachers.
- They are vegetarians.



Possessive 's'

We use 's or s' to show who owns something.

For singular nouns we use 's.

- The student's book (There is one student).
- John's car. ('John' is a singular noun).
- My mother's house. (I only have one mother).

For most plural nouns we use s'.

- The students' books (more than one student).
- The dogs' bones (more than one dog).
- The boys' sandwiches (more than one boy).

For plural nouns that don't end in s, we use 's.

- The children's chocolate.
- The people's opinions.

We usually use 's and s' with people and animals and the things that they own and their relationships. It's much less normal to use 'of' here.

- My mum's laptop (not 'the laptop of my mum').

When the thing doesn't belong to a person or animal, we are more likely to use 'of'.

- The streets of London.
- The door of the house.