

COUNTABLE/UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Nouns in English can be countable or uncountable.

Countable nouns:

- are things we can count,
a dog, five pencils
- can be singular or plural,
My best friend is a very intelligent girl. (singular)
My two other friends are good at sport. (plural)
- can be used with *a/an* (*a girl*), *the* (*the girl*), numerals (*two tables*), and *some/any, (too) many, how many, a lot of or a few* (see table below).

Yes/No questions	Affirmative	Negative
Are there any seats?	There are some seats.	There aren't any seats.
How many seats are there?	There are a few seats. There are a lot of seats. There are too many seats.	There aren't many seats. There are no seats.

Uncountable nouns:

- are things we cannot count,
water, light, friendship
- are only singular,
Chocolate makes you happy.
- can be used with *the* (*the tea*), and *some/any, (too) much, how much, a lot of or a little* (see table below).

Yes/No questions	Affirmative	Negative
Is there any milk?	There is some milk.	There isn't any milk.
How much milk is there?	There is a little milk. There is a lot of milk. There is too much milk.	There isn't much milk. There is no milk.

QUANTIFIERS

- We use **(too) many (of), not many (of), a few (of)** with countable nouns.
(too) many/not many/a few apples, girls
- We use **(too) much, not much, a little** with uncountable nouns.
(too) much/not much/a little tea/ham
- We use **a lot (of), lots of, all (of), most (of), some (of), not any** with uncountable nouns and countable plural nouns.
a lot of/lots/all/most/some money/pencils
We haven't got any rice/books.
- We use **none (of)** with plural nouns when we talk about more than two people or things.
None of the dresses was good.
(more than two dresses)
None of the films is worth recommending.
(more than two films)
- We use **both (of)** (= one and the other) with plural nouns when we talk about two people or things.
Both sisters are very attractive. (two sisters)
Both of them were too long. (two things)

- **either (of)** (= any one of two), **neither (of)** (= not one and not the other) refer to two things or people. After *either* or *neither* we use a singular noun (followed by a verb in a singular form) or a plural noun (followed by a verb in a singular or plural form).

Either house is too expensive for us.

Neither of the songs sounds/sound romantic.

We use of:

- with **a lot** and **none** – except for short answers,
How many of your teachers did you like?
A lot. /None.
None of them came to visit me.
- with personal pronouns,
many/a few/all/most/some/either/neither/both of us/you/them
- with possessive adjectives (with *all* and *both* we can omit *of*),
many/a few/most/some/either/neither of their friends
all/both (of) my skirts
- before nouns with the definite article *the*.
many/a few/all/most/some/either/neither/both of the classrooms in our school