

21 Common uncountable words

A What is countable?



apples



shoes



plates

COUNTABLE (You can count them: 4 apples, 2 shoes)



sugar



money



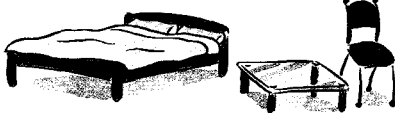
luggage

UNCOUNTABLE (You can't count it: NOT 3 luggages)

Can I have three apples and some sugar, please?

Are these shoes yours? Is this luggage yours?

B Everyday uncountable words



This furniture is modern.



The traffic is bad today.



I'll give you some advice about your future.



He can give you some useful information about Bangkok.



There is some bad news today.



It's terrible weather today.



Accommodation here is expensive.



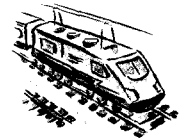
I need some fresh air.



Studying is hard work.



Air travel is faster than rail travel.



C Food

A lot of uncountable nouns are kinds of food and drink.



rice



spaghetti



butter



bread



milk



water



tea



coffee

Note: When we want to say how much we want, we say, three loaves of bread, two litres of milk, a kilo of apples.

Tip: When you learn a new noun, write it down in a phrase which shows if it is countable or uncountable.

Exercises

21.1 Fill the gaps with an uncountable noun opposite.

- 1 I'd like to buy a car but I haven't got enough
- 2 Cows give us and
- 3 If you don't know what to do, ask your parents for some
- 4 The at the seaside is very good for you.
- 5 Rob left school last month and is now looking for
- 6 There is always a lot of in central London.

21.2 Match the words on the right with the words on the left.

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1 heavy | information |
| 2 useful | travel |
| 3 bad | water |
| 4 modern | luggage |
| 5 brown | news |
| 6 cold | furniture |
| 7 space | bread |

21.3 Find an adjective to go with the uncountable nouns in the box.

cold weather, British money

weather	money	sugar	traffic	advice	accommodation	air
work	rice	spaghetti	butter	milk	tea	coffee

21.4 Fill the gaps with the correct form of the verb *be*.

- 1 Accommodation in the city centre expensive.
- 2 Spaghetti with Italian tomato sauce very good.
- 3 The weather in Scotland best in the autumn.
- 4 The news better today than it yesterday.
- 5 Work the most important thing in Sam's life.
- 6 Their furniture very old and very beautiful.

21.5 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- 1 The news ~~are~~ not very good today.
The news is not very good today.
- 2 Where can I get some informations about your country?
- 3 Let me give you an advice.
- 4 Cook these spaghetti for ten minutes.
- 5 Can I have a bread, please?
- 6 Mary is looking for a new work.
- 7 We should buy some new furnitures.
- 8 The east of the country usually has a better weather than the west.
- 9 We went on two long travels last year.
- 10 I must find a new accommodation soon.