

Note (1): If a noun is countable then –

- (a) **a** or **an** can be used before it.
e.g. a fisherman, an apple.
- (b) The question '**How many?**' is asked for countable nouns.
e.g. How many farmers?
- (c) **Numbers** can be used with countable nouns.
e.g. one bat, two boxes.
- (d) Words like **few** are also used before countable nouns.
e.g. How many people? → a few people.
- (e) **Plurals** are found in countable nouns.
e.g. foreigners.

The nouns which cannot be counted are called Uncountable Nouns.

Note (2): If a noun is Uncountable then –

- (a) We usually do not use **a** or **an** before it.
e.g. Their staple diet is mainly rice and fish. (✓)
Their staple diet is mainly a rice, a fish. (X)
- (b) The question '**How much?**' is asked for uncountable nouns.
e.g. How much rice and fish?
- (c) **Numbers** cannot be used with uncountable nouns.
e.g. Their politeness and kindness (✓)
Their one politeness and kindness (X)
- (d) Uncountable nouns do not have **plural** forms.
e.g. rice (✓), rices (X)
- (e)
 - Words like **some, any, much, less, little**, etc. are used with uncountable nouns.
 - All abstract nouns and material nouns are uncountable nouns.

(I) **Consider the following example:**

- (1) Sugar is made from sugarcane.

What is sugar made from? Therefore sugarcane is a material noun. Hence it is uncountable.

- (2) Sugarcane needs a dry climate to grow.

Which plant? Here sugarcane is the name of a plant. Therefore it acts as a common noun. Hence it can be counted. Therefore, it is a countable noun.

1.  **Fill in the blanks with 'a', 'an' or 'some' wherever necessary. Put a (X) where it is not applicable**

(1) A child should have an egg for X breakfast.

(2) A boy threw some stones at me.

(3) His X wisdom and X generosity brought him fame.

(4) An eagle flies high up in the sky.

(5) The palace was built with X marble, X cement and X stones.

(6) Give me a good news.

(7) The detective has gathered an information about the thief.

(8) An Indians should always respect their X national flag.

(9) The girl ate _____ rice and had _____ glass of _____ water.

(10) Add some sugar in my X tea.

2.  Classify the words given below as countable or uncountable nouns in your notebook:

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mud, house, room, corner, chair, cloth, plates, chapatti, wheat, curry, soap, ice, ladder, powder, ink, oven,
breadth, height, depth, pride.

3.  Make two sentences with each of the following words. Use the word once as a countable noun and once as an uncountable noun:

(1) glass: She drank from a glass of water.

The table top is made of glass.

(2) stone: They found several stones on the beach.

The castle walls are made of stone.

(3) rice: He ordered two bowls of rice.

Rice is a staple food in many countries.

(4) gold: She received three golds at the Olympics.

The ring is made of gold.

(5) milk: The recipe calls for two milks of different brands.

Milk is good for your bones.