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Quick and Handy Grammar Review Subject: Count / Non Count Nouns

**Nouns** are a basic part of speech in a language. Nouns are persons, places, things, ideas, or concepts. Nouns may function as the subject of a sentence, as the object of a verb, or as the object of prepositions.

*There are four types of nouns:*

1. **Common nouns** are words for general people, places, or things.
   - book, remote control, window, cafeteria, teller, teacher, street, car, police officer

2. **Proper nouns** are names of specific people, places, or things. They always begin with a capital letter.
   - Veronica, Prof. Lenore Sinclair, Chile, Seoul, Disneyland, the New York Times, Boardwalk Empire, Jennifer Lopez, the Braden’s [notice that when *the* is used with a proper noun, it is usually in the lower case (not capitalized)]

3. **Collective nouns** are singular words that refer to groups of people or animals. They are either common or proper.
   - team, family, committee, congress, herd (of cows), the Rodriguez family, the New York Yankees

4. **Abstract nouns** are words for ideas or concepts. We know they exist, but we can’t use our senses (touch, hearing, sight, taste, smell) to find them.
   - love, hate, honesty, faith, freedom, patience, joy, responsibility, fidelity, dislike, loyalty

**Count Nouns**

Count (or countable) nouns are simple to count. They may be singular or plural. For singular count nouns, use *a, an, the*, or *one*. For plural count nouns, use a number, the article *the*, or no article. You may also use quantity words (*a lot, a little, and especially some*). Never use *a* or *an* with a plural noun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a cat</td>
<td>cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an orange</td>
<td>two oranges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one soldier</td>
<td>15 soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the recipe</td>
<td>the recipes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-Count Nouns**

Non-count nouns are things that we generally do not count. Non-count nouns are always singular. Do not use an article with count nouns. You may use quantity words (*a lot, a little, and especially some*). Certain categories of nouns are usually non-count.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstract ideas and feelings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beauty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>faith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>happiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>honesty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>joy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>luck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>news</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vocabulary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School subjects
biology criminal justice economics English gymnastics mathematics
physics psychology Spanish statistics wellness writing

Terms composed of tiny parts
coffee flour jewelry hair money pepper
rice salt sand sugar tea

Collective nouns referring to things
clothing food furniture garbage homework jewelry snow
mail (note: email is a count noun) money music rain traffic

Several food items
bread butter cheese chocolate fish fruit meat
pasta soup water

Minerals
copper gold iron silver steel
tin

Liquids and gases
air beer milk oil oxygen
pollution soup water wind

Measure words:
To talk about quantities with non-count nouns, use a/an/the + measure word + of + non-count noun.
a glass of milk an ounce of gold a bag of flour
a pound of coffee four gallons of water two pounds of sugar

Measure words include: bottle, bowl, box, bunch, can, container, cup, glass, jar, loaf, piece, pound, slice, tablespoon, teaspoon.
Exercise 1:
Read the nouns below. Decide if each noun is a count (C) or non-count (N) noun. Write the correct letter next to each word.

1. ____ advice    2. ____ program   3. ____ news
4. ____ necklace   5. ____ color    6. ____ orange
7. ____ email      8. ____ hope     9. ____ ring
10. ____ file      11. ____ hate    12. ____ jewelry
13. ____ information   14. ____ partner   15. ____ music

Exercise 2:
Read the nouns below. Decide if each noun is a count (C) or non-count (N) noun. Write the correct letter next to each word.

1. ____ cheese    2. ____ economics   3. ____ boy
4. ____ watch      5. ____ rain     6. ____ season
7. ____ trash      8. ____ snow     9. ____ work
10. ____ garbage   11. ____ raindrop 12. ____ homework
13. ____ information   14. ____ faith   15. ____ essay

Exercise 3:
Read the nouns below. Decide if each noun is a count (C) or non-count (N) noun. Write the correct letter next to each word.

1. ____ flour    2. ____ economics   3. ____ ocean
4. ____ leaf      5. ____ bag     6. ____ sleet
7. ____ milk      8. ____ soldier  9. ____ children
10. ____ roll     11. ____ snowflake   12. ____ fidelity
13. ____ loyalty   14. ____ impatience   15. ____ peach
**Exercise 4:**

*Place one of the words on the list before the nouns below. Use each word only once.*

piece / can / loaf / container / bottle / glass / box / gallon / pound / bowl

1. _____________ coffee
2. _____________ milk
3. _____________ cereal

4. _____________ cookies
5. _____________ yogurt
6. _____________ bread

7. _____________ gas
8. _____________ peas
9. _____________ beer

10. _____________ candy

**Exercise 5:**

*Error Correction. Rewrite the correct sentence below.*

1. The news on Channel 46 are always bad.

____________________________________________________________________

2. Rosa’s hairs are long and blonds and her clothes is very stylish.

____________________________________________________________________

3. The advisor gave me the wrong informations. Her advises were incorrect.

____________________________________________________________________

4. I bought two cheeses and 3 milks.

____________________________________________________________________

5. Henry drank two coffees.

____________________________________________________________________

6. Statistics are a difficult class.

____________________________________________________________________

7. Hye Lim has a strong faith.

____________________________________________________________________

8. The sands on Waikiki Beach are golden.

____________________________________________________________________

9. Jim gave his girlfriend two golds for her birthday.

____________________________________________________________________

10. The clothing in the new store at the mall are very expensive.
Exercise 6:
Error Correction. Rewrite the correct sentence below.

1. Hank wants to give you some advices, but the informations are not available.
____________________________________________________________________

2. Two mens and three womens are dancing in the hall.
____________________________________________________________________

3. Heera needs a paper. She heard a good news, and she wants to write two letter.
____________________________________________________________________

4. The love is stronger than the hate.
____________________________________________________________________

5. Martha says the beauty is not as important as the intelligence in a partner.
____________________________________________________________________

6. Coffee has many caffeeines, so they keep me awake.
____________________________________________________________________

7. The Argentine peoples is very generous.
____________________________________________________________________

8. Harvey had bad accident. He hurt his feets.
____________________________________________________________________

9. I cooked three fishes for dinner
____________________________________________________________________

10. How many furniture are there in your apartment?
____________________________________________________________________

Exercise 7:
Place a, an, or some before the following nouns.

1. __________ mail 2. __________ advice
3. __________ apple 4. __________ traffic
5. __________ hair 6. __________ information
7. __________ job 8. __________ work
9. __________ assignment 10. __________ homework
11. __________ friend 12. __________ sand
13. __________ piece 14. __________ news
Exercise 8:
Place a, an, or some before the following nouns.

1. _________ email  
2. _________ message  
3. _________ hard drive  
4. _________ bus  
5. _________ advice  
6. _________ problem  
7. _________ love  
8. _________ partner  
9. _________ music  
10. _________ classmate  
11. _________ women  
12. _________ book  
13. _________ ant  
14. _________ rice  
15. _________ pen

Exercise 9:
Place is or are after the following nouns.

1. Six women _________  
2. The mail _________  
3. Economics _________  
4. Milk _________  
5. Tigers _________  
6. The team _________  
7. The Washington Post _________  
8. Coffee _________  
9. The boys and girls _________  
10. Salt _________

Exercise 10:
Place is or are after the following nouns.

1. Faith _________  
2. Five emails _________  
3. Physics _________  
4. Three bowls _________  
5. Sugar _________  
6. The army _________  
7. Survivor _________  
8. Patience _________  
9. The Obamas _________  
10. The grammar books _________
Answer Key

Exercise 1:

Exercise 2:

Exercise 3:

Exercise 4:

Exercise 5:
1. The news on Channel 46 is always bad.
2. Rosa’s hair is long and blond and her clothes are very stylish.
3. The advisor gave me the wrong information. Her advice was incorrect.
4. I bought two pounds of cheese and three quarts of milk.
5. Henry drank two cups of coffee.
6. Statistics is a difficult class.
7. Hye Lim has strong faith [no a].
8. The sand on Waikiki Beach is golden.
9. Jim gave his girlfriend two gold rings for her birthday.
10. The clothing in the new store at the mall is very expensive.

Exercise 6:
1. Hank wants to give you some advice, but the information is not available.
2. Two men and three women are dancing in the hall.
3. Heera needs some paper. She heard good news, and she wants to write two letters.
4. Love is stronger than hate. [no articles]
5. Martha says beauty is not as important as intelligence in a partner. [no articles]
6. Coffee has much caffeine [or a lot of caffeine], so it keeps me awake.
7. The Argentine people are very generous.
8. Harvey had a bad accident. He hurt his feet.
9. I cooked three fish for dinner
10. How much furniture is there in your apartment?

Exercise 7:
1. some  2. some  3. an  4. some  5. some  6. some  7. a.  8. some
9. an  10. some  11. a  12. some  13. a  14. some  15. a

Exercise 8:
1. an  2. a  3. a  4. a  5. some  6. a  7. some  8. a
9. some  10. a  11. some  12. a  13. an  14. some  15. a

Exercise 9:
1. are  2. is  3. is  4. is  5. are  6. is  7. Is  8. Is
9. are  10. is

Exercise 10:
1. is  2. are  3. is  4. are  5. is  6. is  7. is  8. is
9. are  10. are