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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, some, many). Never use a or an with a plural noun.

Singular	Plural
a cat	cats
an orange	two oranges
one soldier	15 soldiers
the recipe	the recipes

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.

Abstract ideas and feelings

advice	beauty	faith	freedom	happiness	hate	honesty
information	intelligence	joy	love	luck	news	vocabulary	work

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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 caffeines, 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:
1. N   2. C   3. N   4. C   5. C   6. C   7. C   8. N   9. C   10. C   11. N   12. N   13. N   14. C   15. N

Exercise 2:
1. N   2. N   3. C   4. C   5. N   6. C   7. N   8. N   9. N   10. N   11. C   12. N   13. N   14. N   15. C

Exercise 3:
1. N   2. N   3. C   4. C   5. C   6. N   7. N   8. C   9. C   10. C   11. C   12. N   13. N   14. N   15. C

Exercise 4:
1. pound   2. Glass   3. Bowl   4. Box   5. container   6. Loaf   7. Gallon   8. Can   9. bottle   10. Piece

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

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