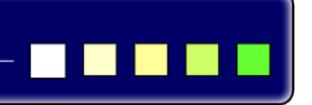
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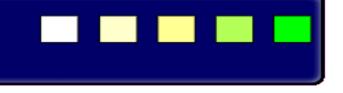
English as a Foreign Language



English Grammar

A Student's Guide to Using 'Nouns' in Academic Writing

Nouns



When writing in English it is important to know whether a noun is countable or uncountable

- Some nouns are only countable
- Some nouns are only <u>un</u>countable
- Some nouns are countable <u>and</u> uncountable



Countable nouns are the most common type of nouns in English

Definition

A countable noun is a word that refers to a person or thing and has a singular and plural form. Countable nouns refer to things that can be counted. These are shown in the dictionary by the letter [C] or the abbreviation [count]

(Adapted from Seely, 2009)



Countable nouns usually form their plural by adding 's' to the singular form

Singular	Plural = 's'
effect	effects
issue	issues
problem	problems



Countable nouns ending in 'y' usually form their plural by deleting 'y' and adding 'ies'

Singular = 'y'	Plural = 'ies'
country	countries
study	studies
theory	theories



Some countable nouns come from Greek or Latin and have irregular plural forms

Singular = 'is'	Plural = 'es'
analysis	analyses
basis	bases
crisis	crises



Irregular countable nouns from Greek or Latin

Singular = 'is'	Plural = 'es'
emphasis	emphases
hypothesis	hypotheses
thesis	theses



Irregular countable nouns from Greek

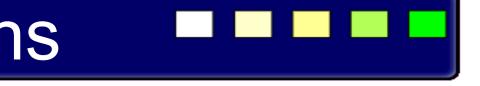
Sing = 'on'	Plural = 'a'
criterion	criteria
phenomenon	phenomena



Some countable nouns come from Greek or Latin but follow the English rules

Singular	Plural = 's'
dogma	dogmas
formula	*formulas

^{*} Note: The Latin form 'formulae' is used by scientists



Some countable nouns from Latin and Greek have two plural forms with different meanings

Singular	Plural = 'xes' or 'ces'
appendix	appendixes (medical term)
	appendices (medical term)
appendix	appendices (additions in book)



Some countable nouns from Latin and Greek have two plural forms with different meanings

Singular	Plural = 'xes' or 'ces'
index	indexes (in a book)
index	indices (mathematical term)

Uncountable Nouns



Definition

An uncountable noun is a word that refers to a body, or mass, of something. Uncountable nouns refer to things that <u>cannot</u> be counted. These are shown in the dictionary with the letter [U], the abbreviation [uncount.], or the word [mass]

(Adapted from Seely, 2009)

Uncountable Nouns

Uncountable nouns in academic English

Examples

advice; damage; finance; influence; information; infrastructure; knowledge; research;

Uncountable Nouns



Example

- X A recent research has shown
- Recent research has shown
- X An information can be found in the library.
- Information can be found in the library.



Explanation

Nouns in this group change with meaning and use. Where countability depends on use, the noun is shown in the dictionary as [C,U]. Where countability depends on meaning, one meaning may be shown as countable [C] and another meaning shown as uncountable [U]



Technology [C, U]

When "technology" is used to refer to the 'body' or 'mass' of technology, it is **uncountable**

Example: In the 21st Century, technology **has** revolutionised almost every aspect of daily life.



Technology [C,U]

When the words 'technology' refers to a number of technological developments, it is **countable**

Example: Modern **technologies**, such as the laser and the computer, **have** led to scientific breakthroughs.



Development [U]

When "development" means "growth" or "economic activity" it is **uncountable** (LDOCE)

Example: Economic development has been rapid in BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, China) nations.



Development [C]

When "development" means "a new event" or "an improvement" it is **countable** (LDOCE)

Example: Significant **developments** in genetic technology **have** improved modern medicine.

Countable noun in one meaning [C];
Countable/Uncountable in another [C, U];
Impact [C]

When 'impact' means "the effect or influence that an event, situation etc. has on someone or something" (LDOCE), it is **countable**

Example: The **impact** of peer pressure on teenagers **tends** to be reflected in certain types of behaviour.



Impact [C, U]

When 'impact' means "the force or one object hitting another" (LDOCE), it can be **countable** or **uncountable** depending on how it is used



Impact [C,U]

When 'impact' is used to mean a number of different forces, it is **countable**

Example: The impacts of momenta **are** not easy to control.



Impact [U]

When 'impact' means the collective force or one object hitting another it is **uncountable**

Example: The impact of the vehicles hitting the wall was sufficient to damage the building.

References

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Thank you for watching!



Dr Barbara Howarth