

Countable and uncountable nouns

In English, nouns can be countable or uncountable. Countable nouns can be individually counted. Objects that aren't counted are uncountable.

See also:

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70.1 COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

"A," "an," or numbers are used to talk about countable nouns.
"Some" can be used for both countable and uncountable nouns.

COUNTABLE NOUNS

There is **an** egg. 

There are **four** eggs. 

There are **some** eggs. 

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Uncountable nouns are always used with verbs in the singular.

There is **some** rice. 

"Some" is always used with uncountable nouns, not "a," "an," or a number.

FURTHER EXAMPLES

 **a** sandwich

 **an** apple

 **some** milk

 **some** water

 **some** bananas

 **two** burgers

 **some** spaghetti

 **some** sugar

70.2 MAKING UNCOUNTABLE THINGS COUNTABLE

Uncountable nouns can become countable when the noun is in a container.

 **some** sugar



 **a** bag of sugar

 **some** water



 **three** bottles of water

 **some** cereal



 **a** bowl of cereal