

GRAMMAR – Unit 2: Countable and uncountable nouns

Please, do the following exercises. - textbook pages 25 and 27

- you do not have to submit your answers, I trust you to work on your own. The key will be provided next week.

We shall focus on countable and uncountable nouns shortly in class as well.

This grammar is important for two reasons:

1. students often make mistakes and use uncountable nouns as countable
2. articles: knowing whether a noun is countable or uncountable is one of the important keys in determining what article to use (a, the, none). (We shall focus on articles separately in one of our future lessons, these exercises are a preparation for that.)

Key grammar

Countable and uncountable nouns

- 1 Look at this extract from the sample answer on page 24. Which underlined noun is countable and which one is uncountable?

... there are many different attitudes towards food ...

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- 2 Look at the highlighted words in the sample answer. Which are countable and which are uncountable?

- 3 Look at these words/phrases that are often used with countable/uncountable nouns. Put them in the correct column of the table below.

a (wide) range of a little (very) few plenty of
a lot of a (large) number of many a few little
most a great deal of a considerable amount of
much a/an any some

countable nouns	uncountable nouns	countable or uncountable nouns
a (wide) range of		

Grammar

- 3 Circle the correct option in each of these sentences.

- 1 Can you give me some advice / *advices* on how to stay fit?
- 2 Children need clear *information* / *informations* about the food they eat.
- 3 A *balanced diet* / *Balanced diet* consists of plenty of fruit and vegetables.
- 4 Organic farming causes less *pollutions* / *pollution* than traditional farming.
- 5 Some people say that a little *knowledges* / *knowledge* can be a dangerous thing.
- 6 I go to *fast-food shop* / *fast-food shops* as little as possible.
- 7 A shift worker can have *very stressful lifestyle* / *a very stressful lifestyle*.
- 8 More *research* / *researches* is needed to make genetic engineering safe.

- 4 IELTS students often make mistakes with countable and uncountable nouns. Choose the correct expression to complete each sentence.

- 1 Recently, the *number* / amount of fast food that is eaten has increased.
- 2 For example, *few* / *a few* years ago there were not many microwave ovens in our country.
- 3 Technology brings *much* / *many* advantages to our lives.
- 4 I think *many* / *a lot of* research must be done on organic farming.
- 5 You can't get *many* / *much* information about your health these days without using the Internet.
- 6 Unfortunately, I have *little* / *a little* time to cook when I get home.
- 7 I think the *amount* / *number* of fast-food stores should be reduced.
- 8 Some children eat *much* / *a lot of* oily and fatty foods.

- 4 Complete the sentences below with the expressions in the box. Use each expression only once. There are two extra expressions that you do not need.

a/an a few amount of deal of few little
many much number of plenty of

- 1 Only a small number of consumers buy organic food.
- 2 I can't stand cooking in dirty kitchen.
- 3 Everyone needs to spend a time relaxing.
- 4 At the end of the week, I don't have money left to buy food.
- 5 You need to put a large fertiliser on young plants.
- 6 You need free time in order to do your own cooking.
- 7 It's a pity that so people are interested in reading the labels on food.
- 8 Obviously someone has put a great work into this meal – it's delicious!