

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Countable Noun são Substantivos contáveis, possuem formas no plural, podendo ser contabilizados através de números.

Uncountable Noun são substantivos incontáveis e que não possuem forma no plural.

Para uncountable nouns podemos utilizar locuções para recorrer a uma ideia abstrata: *piece of*, *a lot of*, *much* e *little*.

Countable Nouns



Apples



Carrots



Burger



Eggs



Banana



Salad

Uncountable Nouns



Milk



Honey



Cheese



Bread



Water



Juice

Countable and uncountable nouns

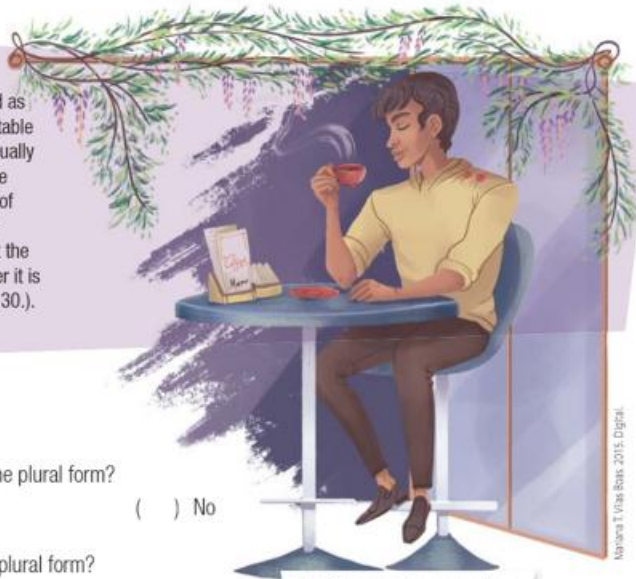
6. Look at the nouns in the boxes below. Discuss which of them are countable or uncountable and complete the following table.

car	money	present	book	juice
soda	house	furniture	balloon	time

Countable	Uncountable
□	□

Did you know?

Some words that are commonly classified as uncountable nouns can also be used as countable in specific situations. For example, *meat* is usually uncountable, but you can use it as a countable noun if you want to talk about different types of cold meat (My favorite cold *meats* are salami and ham.). Also, you may not be talking about the substance itself, but rather about the container it is in, which is often left out (Two *sodas* cost \$1.30.).



Marcelo T. Vias Bonis 2015, Digital.

7. If a noun is uncountable, can it be used in the plural form?

() Yes

() No

8. If a noun is countable, can it be used in the plural form?

() Yes

() No

Pay attention!

Information, news, music and advice are uncountable nouns. So, when referring to one of these nouns, use the verb in the singular form (This *is* fantastic *news*!). Do not use the indefinite article (a/an) before *information, news, music and advice*. You may use *a piece of* instead (May I give you *a piece of advice*?).

9. Look at the nouns below. Write **C** if the noun is countable and **U** if it is uncountable.

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| a) () time | d) () air | g) () information | j) () food | m) () money |
| b) () magazine | e) () holiday | h) () party | k) () music | n) () flower |
| c) () confetti | f) () flour | i) () milk | l) () table | o) () water |

10. Read the following excerpts and, in each of them, classify the underlined nouns as countable or uncountable. Justify your answers.

a)

Valentine's Day

[...]

What do people do?

Many people celebrate their love for their partner by sending cards or letters, giving gifts or flowers and arranging meals in restaurants or romantic nights in hotels. People who would like to have a romantic relationship with somebody may use the occasion to make this known, often anonymously.

Valentine's cards are often decorated with images of hearts, red roses or Cupid.

Common Valentine's Day gifts are flowers, chocolates, [...]. However, some people use the occasion to present lavish gifts, such as jewelry. Many restaurants and hotels have special offers at this time. These can include romantic meals or weekend breaks.

[...]

TIME and date. *Valentine's Day in United States*. Available at: <<http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/valentine-day>>. Accessed on: 19 Sept. 2014.



b)

Christmas

[...]

Christmas Eve is not an official holiday here [in the US]. Hence most people have to work. However, many workplaces hold Christmas parties or celebrations, so there is a celebratory air to the day. For kids, it is a day of great joy since most schools and other educational establishments are usually closed. In the evening, most people add final touches to their home decorations. Many also set up the Christmas tree in their homes on this day. Many organizations and department stores are usually open for last minute Christmas shoppers, but may close earlier. Many people travel to visit family members or friends on Christmas Eve. [...]

The Christmas dinner in the U.S. includes turkey or ham, potatoes and pie. Cakes are of course, a must for the occasion. [...] At Christmas Eve gatherings adults drink eggnog, a drink made of cream, milk, sugar, beaten eggs and brandy or rum.

[...]

THE holiday spot. *Christmas celebration in United States*. Available at: <<http://www.theholidayspot.com/christmas/worldxmas/us.htm>>. Accessed on: 1 Dec. 2014.

