

Count and Non-Count Nouns

See Appendix H
for a list of
non-count nouns.

There are two different kinds of nouns: count and non-count.

Count nouns have two forms: singular (used with *a* or *an*) or plural.

Singular: I need a ticket.

Plural: I need two tickets.

Non-count nouns have only one form. You can't count them. Don't use *a* or *an* with non-count nouns. Don't add *s* to non-count nouns.

Correct I need information.

Incorrect: ~~I need an informations.~~ ~~I need informations.~~

You can use either *the* or a possessive adjective (*my/your/his/her/its/our/their*) before both count nouns and non-count nouns.

Where's the ticket?

Where's the money?

Where's my ticket?

Where's my money?

Common Non-Count Nouns

furniture	luggage	software
homework	money	traffic
information	music	time
jewelry	paper	

Food Non-Count Nouns

bread	fruit	rice
cheese	gum	sugar
coffee	food	tea
candy	milk	water

Some and A lot of:

You can use *some* and *a lot of* with plural count nouns and non-count nouns.

Do not use *some* and *a lot of* with singular count nouns.

Correct: I have some magazines.
I have a lot of magazines.

I have some money.
I have a lot of money.

Incorrect: ~~I have some magazine.~~
~~I have a lot of magazine.~~

AUDIO



A Tina's father, Stan, is going to give Tina a ride to the airport. Listen to the conversation. Then underline the count nouns and circle the non-count nouns.

Stan: Hurry Tina! There's a lot of traffic today! You don't want to be late.

Tina: I'm almost ready. I need to bring something to eat.

Stan: Well, take some fruit. There's a banana and an orange in the kitchen.

Tina: Thanks. I'll buy some coffee at the airport. And maybe some gum and a magazine. Now, let me see. I need to take some jewelry.

Stan: Don't bring any jewelry. You might lose it.

Tina: I'm bringing only one necklace and one bracelet.... Here they are!

Stan: OK. Do you have everything? Do you need some money?

Tina: I have a lot of money. And I have a credit card.

Stan: OK. Let's go. You have a lot of luggage. I'll carry it to the car.

Tina: OK. I'll get some food from the kitchen and meet you outside.

B Complete these sentences about Tina's trip with *a*, *an*, or *some*.

1. Tina is bringing some fruit.
2. She's not bringing an apple.
3. Tina has some jewelry.
4. She's bringing a necklace and a bracelet.
5. She has a credit card.
6. She has a luggage.
7. She's going to stay in a apartment.
8. She wants to buy a furniture in L.A.



C Complete the sentences below with the following non-count nouns.

food	information	music	time
jewelry	money	tea	traffic

1. Tina has a lot of necklaces and bracelets. She has a lot of jewelry.
2. There is a lot of traffic on the road.
3. Tina's bringing a credit card and some money.
4. Tina's hungry. She's going to buy some food.
5. Tina's thirsty. She's going to drink some tea.
6. She needs some information about her flight.
7. Her plane is late, so she has a lot of time before her flight.
8. She has her CD player. She's going to listen to some music.



D Chant

Pretty Woman/Handsome Man

He reads a lot of magazines, but not many books.
 He spends a lot of money on how he looks.
 She eats fruit for breakfast and sometimes eggs.
 She wears short skirts to show off her legs.
 He has a lot of credit cards, but doesn't like to use them.
 She loves to shop for hats and shoes, and she knows how to choose them.
 Sometimes he goes shopping, but doesn't buy a thing.
 She wears a lot of jewelry, but not a wedding ring.
 She buys a lot of make-up and loves to wear it.
 She has a lot of trouble and loves to share it.
 He gets a lot of pleasure from the things he enjoys.
 Happiness for him is a box of computer toys.

