

Expressions of quantity

Count nouns refer to people, places, and things that can be counted.

For example, twenty *students*, eight *rooms*, one *box*, and four *socks* are all count nouns.

Noncount nouns, on the other hand, refer to items, qualities, or concepts that cannot be counted. It is important to note that noncount nouns usually do not have plural forms (do not add –s or –es to the end of the words). They are only singular:

loyalty, information, pollution, salt, steel, etc.

The water is cold.

- Count nouns can be singular or plural:

This cup is full.

These cups are empty.

Much and many

we use *much* / *many* only in questions and negative sentences:

much+uncount nouns

many+count nouns

How much money have you got?

Carla does not have many friends.

Some and Any

The general rule is that **any** is used for questions and negatives while **some** is used for positive.

Both may be used with countable and uncountable nouns.

*Do we need **any** rice?*

*No, we don't need **any** rice.*

*We have **some** rice in the cupboard.*

Some may also be used for questions, typically offers and requests, if we think the answer will be positive.

Would you like some milk?

May I have some more chocolate?

The rules are the same for the compounds: someone, anything, anybody, somewhere....

I've got something for you.

Hello? Is anybody here.

A little, a few with a noun

We use *a little* with singular uncountable nouns. We use *a few* with plural countable nouns:

*Mary said nothing, but she drank some tea and ate **a little** bread.*

*We stayed **a few** days in Florence and visited the museums.*

Lots of and a lot of

These expressions are used with count and noncount nouns in questions and negatives:

There is a lot of butter.

There isn't a lot of butter.

Are there lots of tourists in your country?

