

Countable and Uncountable Nouns: *Countable nouns* are things that we can *count*. For example: *pencil*. We can count pencils. We can have one, two, or more pencils. Some more countable nouns: *table, chair, cat, animal, suitcase, and bag*.

Uncountable nouns are substances, concepts etc. that we *cannot* divide into separate elements. We cannot *count* them. For example, we cannot count *water*. We can count *bottles of water* or *liters of water*, but we cannot count *water* itself. Some more uncountable nouns: *gas, power, money, music, art, rice, love, happiness, advice, butter, electricity, and Oxygen*. An uncountable noun always takes a *singular* verb in a sentence.

A good way to test whether a noun is truly uncountable is to try making a *plural* out of it, since uncountable nouns do not have *plural* forms. For example,

Correct: *Peter wants milk*.

Incorrect: *Peter wants milks*. Hence, we know that *milk* is *uncountable*.

Correct: *Give cookie to Jack*.

Correct: *Give cookies to Jack*. Since plural *cookies* is fine, we know that *cookie* is *countable*.

Similarly, we can figure out that words such as *water, sand, sugar, luggage, and furniture* are *uncountable*, since these words do *not* have any corresponding *plural* forms (in other words, there is *no* such English word as *waters, sands, sugars, luggages, furnitures* etc.).

As much vs As many: The usage of *as much* vs *as many* directly follows from the concept of *Countable* and *Uncountable* Nouns. The word *much* (and other related phrases including *as much as*) can be used only for *uncountable nouns*, while the word *many* (and other related phrases including *as many as*) can be used only for *countable nouns*. For example:

Incorrect: *During his tenure, the President undertook as much as twenty trips to neighboring countries*.

Correct: *During his tenure, the President undertook as many as twenty trips to neighboring countries*.