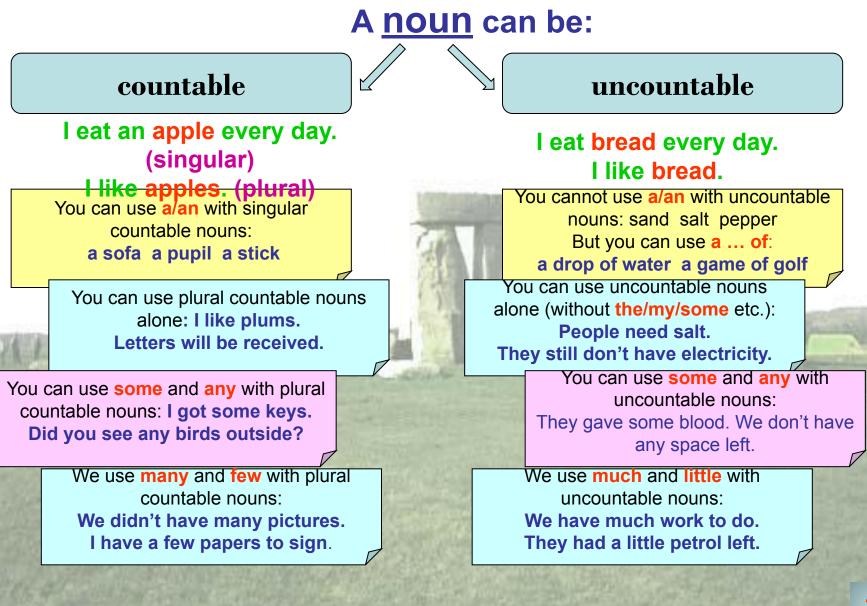


"There is no article without a noun, but there are some nouns without articles." One who knows grammar.

Countable and uncountable nouns.



Countable and uncountable nouns.

Nouns that can be:

countable

uncountable

A potato or potato?

Some nouns can be countable or uncountable.

I'm peeling the potatoes. Sue baked a cake for David. Nancy was eating an apple. Someone threw a stone at the police. There is a hair on your shirt.

Would you like some potato? Have some cake! Is there apple in this salad? The house is built of stone. I must brush my hair.

A sport or sport?

Often the countable noun is specific, and the uncountable is more general.

Rugby is a sport. (=a particular sport) That's a nice painting over there! We heard a sudden noise outside. John Lennon had an interesting life.

Do you like sport? (=sport in general) Jim is good at painting. Constant noise can make you ill. Life is complicated sometimes.

Countable and uncountable nouns.

Nouns that can be:

countable

uncountable

A paper or paper?

Some nouns can be countable or uncountable with different meanings.

I'll have a glass of orange juice. Have you got an iron? (for clothes) I switched all the lights on. I've been to France many times. The journey was a great experience.

I run a small business. (a

company)

I need some paper to write on. I bought a piece of glass for the window. The bridge is made of iron. There's more light by the window. I can't stop. I haven't got time. He has enough experience for the job. I enjoy doing business. (buying and selling)

There is no space for the piano in here.

We found a space in the car part offee or coffee?

Words for drinks are usually uncountable. But when we are ordering or offering drinks, we can say a cup of... or a Some nouns can be countable when we are talking about a particular kind or about different kinds.

Two coffees, please. Chianti is an Italian wine. (<u>kind of</u> wine) The use of plastics has greatly increased. (= the use of different <u>kinds of</u> plastic)



Coffee is more expensive than tea. Wine is not served in McDonalds.

When the story first mentions smth the noun has a or an.

But when the same thing is mentioned adsin, the oun has **the**.



Alan goes only with singular noun. He left a case. (singular) He left some cases. (plural) He left some luggage. (uncountable)

The goes both with singular and plural and uncountable nouns. He needed **the cases**. (plural) He needed **the cases**.

Juggage.

A/an and the (əldejnoon)

<u>A/an and the</u>

We use <u>a/an</u> + someone/something when we aren't saying which one. *A man booked into a hotel. He left a case behind.*

> We use <u>the</u> + noun or he/she/it when we know which one. He didn't return to the hotel. The case contained clothes.

A/an and the

We use a/an and the when we aren't saying which one, and we use the when we know which one. A tourist arrived in Cheltenham to look around the town

When there is only one thing in the context, we use the. We normally say: the country, the earth, the environment, the government, the moon, the ozone layer, the Prime Minister, the sea, the sky, the sun, the weather, the sea, the sky, the sun, the weather, the cinema, the theatre, the newspaper, the police.

A/an and the

We use a/an to describe something: It was a lovely day. -to classify something: The play was a comedy. -to say what someone's job is: -Nick is a car salesman.

But we use the with a superlative. It's the biggest hotel in town. This is the best photo.



The + plurals and uncountables

We use plurals and uncountables <u>without</u> the with <u>general meaning</u>:

Cars are expensive to buy. Elephants are intelligent animals.

I don't understand computers.

You always need money.

Oil is used in every machine around.

We use plurals and uncountables <u>with</u> *the* with <u>specific meaning</u>:

The cars had both broken down.

We saw the elephants in the zoo.

The computers crashed at work.

Mary put the money in her purse.

Look at the oil on your sweater.

The + plurals and uncountables

We use plurals and uncountables <u>without</u> the with <u>general meaning</u>:

This man went to prison two years ago. School is over at half past three.

Steve is at college. (He is a student there.)

> David is in hospital. (He is a patient.)

Sue is going to church (to a service.) We use plurals and uncountables <u>with</u> *the* with <u>specific meaning</u>:

The boy went to the prison to see his father.

The school is a mile from here.

The meeting was at the college.

Melanie waited in the hospital for news.

We wanted to look round the church.

The + plurals and uncountables

We use plurals and uncountables <u>without</u> the with <u>general meaning</u>:

In bed, go to bed (to rest or sleep)

At home, go home, come home, leave home

At sea (=sailing), Go to sea (as a sailor)

> In town, go into town, leave town

At work, go to work, leave work We use plurals and uncountables <u>with</u> *the* with <u>specific meaning</u>:

> Sit on the bed, make the bed

In the house, to the house, in the home

On the sea, by the sea, at the seaside, on the coast

The town center, the city, the village

> The office, the factory

Phrases of time are usually without alan or the.

We are meeting on Friday for lunch.

But we use a/an or the if there is a phrase or clause after Friday, lunch, etc. *It was the Friday before she went to Australia.* We normally use article if there is an adjective. *We had a good lunch.*

Years, seasons, months.

I was born in 1986. We play cricket in summer. Winter always depresses me. I will start the course in September.

born. It was the winter of 1995 when things started to go wrong for the company.

was

That was the y

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Special times.

We go away at Christmas. Easter is early this year. I'll be home for Thanksgiving. Christmas. I started work here the Easter before

We had a wonderful

last.

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Days of the week.

Yes, Thursday will be

convenient. I'll see you on Tuesday evening. The storm was on the Thursday of that week. We went surfing at the

weekend.

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Parts of the day and night.

I can't sleep at night. I prefer to travel by day. I must get to bed before midnight. We were at the beach at sunset. I hope to get there before dark. It's warmer in the day. Someone got up in the night. We're meeting in the morning. They arrived at the hotel in the evening. It was a beautiful sunset. I couldn't see in the

dark.

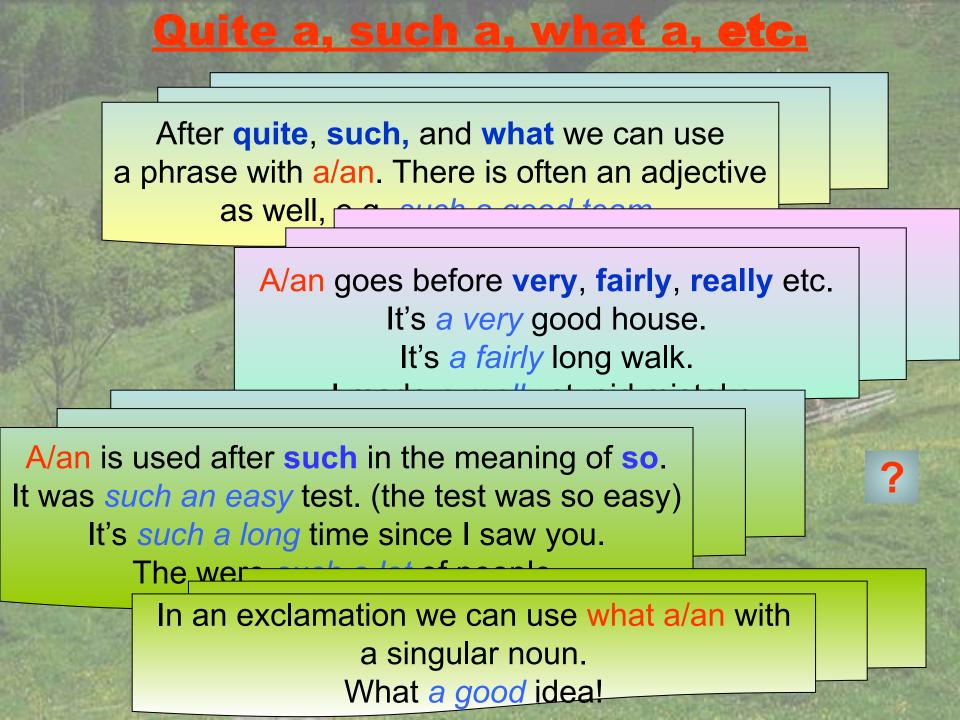
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Meals.

I'll see you at breakfast. We have supper at about 8. I'm going out after lunch. We had a quick breakfast. The supper David cooked was excellent. The meal was very nice.



Place names with and without the

We do not use "the" with names of people. The same way, we do not usually use it with names of places:



Place names with and without the

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