

FUMC ESL 9-26-2013 High Intermediate Lesson

Rules for countable and uncountable nouns when used with adjectives:

A **countable noun** is one that can be expressed in plural form, usually with an "s." For example, "cat--cats," "season--seasons," "student--students." An **uncountable noun** is one that usually cannot be expressed in a plural form. For example, "milk," "water," "air," "money," "food."

Tell whether these nouns are countable or uncountable.

tea _____	problem _____	friend _____
bread _____	sugar _____	hammer _____
tool _____	plastic _____	wood _____
rain _____	car _____	homework _____
metal _____	gold _____	silver _____
blood _____	book _____	air _____
applause _____	art _____	baggage _____
beef _____	butter _____	coffee _____

Most of the time, this doesn't matter with adjectives. For example, you can say, "the gray cat" or "the gray air" However, the difference between a countable and uncountable noun DOES matter with certain adjectives, such as the following:

- some/any
- much/many
- little/few
- a lot of/lots of
- a little bit of
- plenty of
- enough
- no

Some/Any

Both "some" and "any" can modify countable and uncountable nouns.

- "There is *some* water on the floor."
- "There are *some* dogs here."
- "Is there *any* food here?"
- "Are there *any* apples here?"

HERE ARE SOME RULES FOR USING SOME OR ANY

1. Use *some* in positive sentences. Use *any* in negative sentences.

I have **some** friends. I don't have **any** friends.
We have **some** coffee. We don't have **any** coffee.
We got **some** rain. We didn't get **any** rain.

2. Usually *any* is used in questions.

Do you have *any* milk? Is there *any* sugar in the cabinet? Are there *any* dogs here?

3. However, use *some* in questions when offering something.

Would you like *some* milk? Would you like *some* french fries?

3. *Some* is used in questions when making a request.

May I borrow *some* money? Can you hand me *some* apples?

Choose *some* or *any* in these sentences.

- 1-We will have _____ bread with our dinner.
- 2-Would you like _____ wine with your dinner?
- 3-There was not _____ rain in the summer.
- 4-May I have _____ coffee?
- 5-I think I will have _____ toast.
- 6-Do you have _____ pets?
- 7-Sara had _____ good ideas.
- 8-He doesn't have _____ patience with children.
- 9-Do you have _____ homework?
- 10-I have _____ homework.
- 11-I will give them _____ money.
- 12-I won't give them _____ money.
- 13-I got _____ nice presents at the gift shop.
- 14-I didn't find _____ presents for my family.
15. This job is going to take _____ time.

Talk with your group about these subjects. Take notes about what you learn.

- Some things I like to shop for:
- Some foods I will not eat:
- Some gifts I always like to receive:
- Some movie stars I love to watch:
- Some kinds of music I like to listen to:
- Do you have any relatives living with you?

When the teacher calls on you, tell some things you learned about people at your table.

