

# Countable and Uncountable Nouns

All nouns in English are categorised. They are either **countable nouns** or **uncountable nouns** (and a few nouns are both countable and uncountable!)

Countable nouns are, as the name suggests, nouns that you can count as an individual item. You can pick up that individual item and separate it from others (1, 2, 3...). For example, apple.



1 apple



2 apples



3 apples

Countable nouns have two forms. They have a singular form (to say 1 of the item) and they have a plural form (to say more than 1 of the item). This is why we say **1 APPLE** and **2 APPLES**. When we use a countable noun in its singular form, the verb must be in the singular form too. When we use a countable noun in its plural form, the verb must be in the plural form too.



1 apple

**The apple is red**

In this sentence, there is 1 apple (singular form), so the verb (is) is also singular.



2 apples

**The apples are red**

In this sentence, there are 2 apples (plural form), so the verb (are) is also plural.

Uncountable nouns are, as the name suggests, nouns that you cannot count as an individual item. You cannot pick up the item individually. Uncountable nouns are usually liquids, gases, powders or abstract nouns. For example, water. Uncountable nouns only have one form. You cannot count one or many of the item, so we cannot have a singular or plural form for these words.

Uncountable nouns always use the verb in the singular form.



water

**The water is blue**

In this sentence, water is uncountable, so we must use the singular form