Singular Plural Grammar Tutorial Worksheet

For the Tutor

Some nouns are both countable and noncountable, depending on the meaning of the word and situation in which the word is used. Generally, if a noun can be made plural, it is countable—but not always. For example, intelligence is generally considered to be noncountable. Yet it is now common to discuss Howard Gardner’s theory of multiple intelligences in an academic atmosphere. This can cause confusion for your ESL writers. Distinguishing between nouns that are countable, noncountable, or both is a lengthy and difficult task for most L2 writers of English and must be learned by experience.

For the ESL Writer

Study the following:

Some Nouns that are both countable and noncountable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countable</th>
<th>Noncountable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>water</td>
<td>hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>truth</td>
<td>light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>money</td>
<td>intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>candy</td>
<td>cake</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples

- Would you like some of this chocolate cake? (noncountable)
- We baked three cakes for the fundraiser. (countable)
- In some lights, Pa looks blonde. (countable)

Correct the following:

Practice Sentences

- How many soda did you order?
- Have you read the complete work of Emily Dickinson?
- Does Huii have enough rooms at the end of the table?
- Shakiba had her hairs cut and styled yesterday.
- Ricardo strongly believes in telling the truths.