

COUNTABLE / UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Countable nouns

Countable nouns are for things **we can count** using numbers. They have a **singular** and a **plural** form.
Singular = *What makes a good **university** in the 21st century?*

Plural = *In other words, they need to ask the question to **universities**: "What else can you offer me besides a degree?"*

Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns are for the things that **we cannot count** with numbers. (*e.g.* names for **abstract ideas or qualities** or for physical objects like **liquids, powders, gases, etc.**). Uncountable nouns are used with a singular verb. They usually do **not** have a **plural form**.

We cannot use *a/an* with these nouns. To express a quantity of an uncountable noun, use

- a quantifier like *some, a lot of, much, ...*
- an expression like *a piece of, an item of, a bit of, a great deal of...*
- an exact measurement like *a cup of, a bag of, 1kg of, 1L of, a handful of, a pinch of...*

Work experience and **volunteering** will be crucial in proving to employers that you have the attitudes and aptitude needed to work for them.

Countable nouns in French that are uncountable in English

Some words may be countable in French but are uncountable in English.

Knowledge Information Advice Progress News (it is **not the plural form** of the adj. new) ...

Some nouns can be **either countable or uncountable** but the **meaning is not exactly the same**:

COUNTABLE	UNCOUNTABLE
A time (une fois, un moment)	Time (du temps)
An experience (une expérience, un événement)	Experience (de l'expérience)
A work (une oeuvre)	Work (du travail)
A paper (un document; un article; un journal)	Paper (du papier)
...	...

We recommend that you **use a good dictionary to find out** whether a noun is countable or uncountable or both.