

COUNT vs. NON-COUNT NOUNS

I. COUNT NOUNS - nouns which can be counted

A. SINGULAR (A & AN)

I have an apple.

Mary bought a bike.

B. PLURAL

1. SPECIFIC QUANTITY

HOW *MANY cookies did John eat? He ate three cookies

HOW *MANY eggs did you buy? We bought a dozen eggs.

2. UNSPECIFIED QUANTITY

I like bananas, but I ate TOO *MANY.

Patrick sliced some tomatoes, but not TOO *MANY.

Christian peeled A *FEW carrots.

II. NON-COUNT NOUNS - generally CANNOT be counted

I have rice and some milk.

HOW *MUCH milk and rice do you have?

I have *A LITTLE rice, but *TOO MUCH milk.

A. NEVER use the indefinite article A/AN with non-count nouns

~~I have a rice.~~

B. NEVER use the plural marker "S" with non-count nouns

~~I bought sugars at the store.~~

~~Tom drank three milks for breakfast.~~

C. The quantity of a non-count noun can only be described with a *partitive* expression, such as measurements or containers.

I have a bag of sugar.

My mother bought a pound of flour.

***NOTE:** Use the expressions of quantity *MUCH / A LITTLE* with non-count nouns & *MANY / A FEW* with count nouns