

English 101

Lecture (2)

Countable & uncountable nouns Personal pronouns Verb to be

Countable Noun Examples

- Anything that can be counted, whether singular a dog, a house, a friend, etc. or plural – a few books, lots of oranges, etc. is a countable noun. The following countable noun examples will help you to see the difference between countable and uncountable nouns. Notice that singular verbs are used with singular countable nouns, while plural verbs are used with plural countable nouns.
- There are at least twenty Italian restaurants in Little Italy.
- Megan took a lot of photographs when she went to the Grand Canyon.
- Your book is on the kitchen table.
- How many candles are on that birthday cake?
- You have several paintings to study in art appreciation class.
- There's a big brown dog running around the neighborhood.

Uncountable Noun Examples

- Anything that cannot be counted is an uncountable noun.
 Even though uncountable nouns are not individual objects,
 they are always singular and one must always use singular
 <u>verbs</u> in conjunction with uncountable nouns. The following
 uncountable noun examples will help you to gain even more
 understanding of how countable and uncountable nouns differ
 from one another. Notice that singular verbs are always used
 with uncountable nouns.
- There is no more water in the pond.
- Please help yourself to some cheese.
- I need to find information about Pulitzer Prize winners.
- You seem to have a high level of intelligence.
- Please take good care of your equipment.
- Let's get rid of the garbage.

- Uncountable nouns are substances, concepts etc that we cannot divide into separate elements.
- > music, art, love, happiness.
- > advice, information, news.
- > furniture, luggage.
- rice, sugar, butter, water
- > electricity, gas, power
- > money, currency

☐ We usually treat uncountable nouns as singular. We use a singular verb.

For example:

- **➤ This** news **is** very important.
- > Your luggage looks heavy.
- ✓ We do not usually use the indefinite article **a/an** with uncountable nouns. We cannot say "an information" or "a music". But we can say **a something of**:
- > a piece of news.
- **a** bottle of water.
- > a grain of rice.

- We can use some and any with uncountable nouns:
- I've got some money.
- Have you got any rice?
- ☐ We can use a little and much with uncountable nouns:
- I've got a little money.
- I haven't got much rice.

☐ Here are some more examples of countable and uncountable nouns:

| countable | Uncountable | |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| dollar | music | |
| song | electricity | |
| table | advice | |
| bottle | travel | |
| report | money | |
| job | work | |
| view | furniture | |

Pronouns: personal Pronouns

| number | person | gender | Personal subject pronouns |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| | 1 st | Male/ female | I |
| Singular | $2^{\rm nd}$ | Male/ female | You |
| | 3 rd | male | He |
| | | female | She |
| | | neuter | It |
| Plural 2 nd | Male/ female | We | |
| | $2^{\rm nd}$ | Male/ female | You |
| | 3 rd | Male/ female / neuter | They |

Examples:

| Personal pronoun | Examples | | |
|------------------|----------|--------------------------------|--|
| | 1 | I like coffee. | |
| Subject | You | Do you like coffee. | |
| | He | He runs fast. | |
| | She | She is clever. | |
| | lt | It does not work. | |
| | We | We went home. | |
| | You | Do you need a table for three? | |
| | They | They are plating football. | |

Exercise: Complete the following sentences by using the correct pronoun.

- 1) **He** is dreaming. **(George)**
- 2) It is green. (the blackboard)
- 3) They are on the wall. (the posters)
- 4) It is running. (the dog)
- 5) We are watching TV. (my mother and I)
- 6) They are in the garden. (the flowers)
- 7) He is riding his bike. (Tom)
- 8) She is from Bristol. (Victoria)
- 9) **She** has got a brother. **(Diana)**

Verb Be

Present of be: am, is, are

Use the verb be to identify and describe people and things.

| Subject | Ве | Not | |
|--------------------|-----|-------|--------------|
| I | Am | (Not) | A student |
| You , They , We | Are | (Not) | Nice |
| She , He , It | ls | (Not) | From the USA |

•You can be used for singular and plural.

You are a student. (singular)

You are students. (plural)

Verb Be Contractions:

- •A contraction makes two words into one word. It has an apostrophe(').
- •There are two negative contractions for: are not and is not

| | | contractions | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------|----------|
| Subject | Be | (not) | subject + be | (not) | subject | BE + NOT |
| I | Am | | l'm | | | |
| You We They | Are | | You're We're They're | | You We They | aren't |
| She He It | Is | | He's She's It's | | He She It | isn't |

Exercise:

Fill in the blanks with the right form of to be (am, are, is):

- 1. **are** you the new student?
- 2. Yes, I.am
- 3. Leila and Nancy are students.
- 4. Nancy <u>is</u> Australian.
- 5. My sister and I are students.
- 6. The girls are tired.
- 7. These women are beautiful.
- 8. The tea is delicious.
- 9. Nadia and Leila are friends.
- 10. The newspaper is cheap.