

## Things we can count, and things we can't

There are many things we can make into plural by adding an "s". These are called **count nouns**.

A surfer → surfers      A restaurant → restaurants      An apple → apples

But some things have only a singular form. These are called **non-count nouns**. We have to add a new word if we want to make them plural.

Furniture → pieces of furniture      homework → homework assignments      rice → grains of rice

Here is a chart that shows the different types of non-count nouns:

| Type of noun            | Example  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Abstractions            | advice, courage, enjoyment, fun, help, honesty, information, intelligence, knowledge, patience . . . |
| Activities              | chess, homework, music, reading, sleeping, singing, soccer, tennis, work . . .                       |
| Food                    | beef, bread, butter, fish, meat, popcorn, pork, poultry, toast, celery . . .                         |
| Groups of similar items | baggage, luggage, clothing, furniture, equipment, mail, money, jewelry, vocabulary, fruit . . .      |
| Liquids                 | blood, coffee, gasoline, milk, oil, soup, syrup, tea, water, wine . . .                              |
| Natural events          | electricity, gravity, heat, humidity, moonlight, rain, snow, ice, sunshine, thunder, weather . . .   |
| Materials               | aluminum, chalk, cloth, concrete, cotton, glue, wood . . .   |
| Particles or grains     | corn, dirt, dust, flour, hair, pepper, rice, salt, sugar, wheat . . .                                |

We use the word "**many**" for count nouns.

I have many apples.      There are many rocks on the beach.      Many people came to my party.

We use the word "**much**" or "**a lot of**" for non-count nouns.

I don't have much money.      How much rice do you have?      I want to drink a lot of wine.