# COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Common nouns like pencil, box, cat and house may refer to one object or more than one object. When such nouns refer to just one object, you use the singular form, but when they refer to more than one, the plural form of the noun is used. For example, pencils, boxes, cats, houses.

Common nouns that have plural forms are known as countable nouns. Some common nouns do not have plural forms. These are nouns known as uncountable nouns. For example, salt, butter, etc.

**Note.** Uncountable nouns may have plural forms when we are considering different kinds of the same thing. For example, there are different types of salts, so when you notice a plural form of salt then you should know that the expressions implies more than one kind of salt.

## Determiners

Determiners 'a' and 'an' are also known as indefinite or general determiners because you use them when you are talking about people or things in general without identifying them. But 'the' is known as definite determiner because you use it to refer back to a person or thing you talked about before or to an object that is only one of its kind.

Indefinite determiners include 'many' and 'much.' For example, you can say I have many books. You can also say, 'I drank too much water.'

**Note.** Remember you were told that words like 'a', 'an', and 'the' are determiners—words that appear before common nouns. So 'a' and 'an' usually come before countable singular nouns. 'These' and 'those' come before countable but plural nouns.

## Uncountable Nouns with Partitives

When the noun you are talking about is uncountable and you want to say that it is more than one or a lot, you use partitives.

**Examples:**

- A cup of water
- A pinch of salt
- A piece of furniture
- A piece of information
- A cup of rice