**UNIT 4**

**Countable and Uncountable Nouns and Articles**

(brief overview)

**Countable - Singular**

a book, a university

an apple, an hour

**Countable – Plural**

1. Regular

books, tables, pens, chairs etc.

1. Irregular spelling
2. watch – watches, bus – buses, quiz – quizzes, dish – dishes etc.
3. lady – ladies, baby – babies, body – bodies
4. potato – potatoes, tomato – tomatoes
5. knife – knives, wife – wives, leaf – leaves, loaf – loaves, life - lives
6. Exceptions
7. people: man –men, child – children, woman – women

+ person/man/ human being – people + !peoples

1. body parts: tooth – teeth, foot - feet
2. animals: 1. mouse – mice, louse – lice, goose – geese, ox - oxen

2. sheep – sheep, fish – fish + ! fishes etc.

+ means - Bike is the most frequent means of transport in our city.

Bus and bike are my favourite means of transport.

species

series

**Uncountable nouns**

1. Nouns clearly uncountable

Milk, coal, bread, butter, salt, rice, sand, music, gold, soil, yeast, juice, lemonade, water, electricity, luck, blood

1. Nouns mainly uncountable but countable under some circumstances

Whiskey, coffee, tea, beer

Cheese, wine

1. Nouns that may look countable in Czech but are uncountable in English

Money, news, accommodation, behaviour, damage, permission, traffic, advice, furniture, luggage/baggage, progress, weather, chaos, information, knowledge, work, travel

1. Nouns that could be uncountable and countable but with a different meaning

Glass, hair, noise, paper, exercise, time, experience, chocolate

1. Plural uncountable nouns

Scissors, jeans, trousers, pants, pyjamas

**Some/Any/No …**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Rules** | **+** | **-** | **?** | **Countable nouns** | **Uncountable nouns** |
| **Some** | Yes  *I have some books in my bag.*  *There is something on the floor* | No | offers, polite requests  *Can I have some tea, please?*  or  when the expected answer is Yes  *Have you lost something?*  (said when a person is on their knees crawling on the floor) | Yes  *some cars,*  *some notebooks* | Yes  *some information, some news* |
| **Any** | when the meaning is *cokoliv, kdokoliv, jakýkoliv*  *You can take any bus you like, they all go to the train station.*  *You can do anything you like, I don’t care.* | Yes  *There aren´t any people on the beach.*  *There isn’t anybody in the classroom.* | Yes  *Do you have any questions?*  *Is there anything else I should know?* | Yes  *any bus, any children* | Yes  *any milk, any exercise* |
| **Much** | (rarely)  +  academic writing | Yes  *I don’t have much money.* | Yes  (How?)  *How much money have you spent?* | No | Yes  *much information, much luggage* |
| 1. **Little** | Yes  *We have only a little bread so we have to buy some.* | (Yes)  *We don’t have little money anymore because we won a lottery.* | (Yes)  *Do you have a little homework or a lot as usual*? | No | Yes  *little advice, little knowledge* |
| **Many** | (rarely)  +  academic writing | Yes  *She hasn’t bought many books but only a few.* | Yes  *Does he have*  *many friends or a lot?* | Yes  *many teachers, many books* | No |
| 1. **Few** | Yes  *There are few people in the room.* | (Yes)  *He didn’t invite only a few friends but a lot.* | (Yes)  *Are there only a few bottles or a lot?* | Yes  *few boxes, few pens* | No |
| **A lot of/ Lots of** | Yes  *There are a lot of/lots of students.*  *There is a lot of juice.* | Yes  *We don’t know a lot of people here.*  *He didn’t buy a lot of wine.* | Yes  *Have you met a lot of people?*  *Have you learnt a lot of information?* | Yes  *a lot of/lots of tables, cups* | Yes  *a lot of/lots of exercise, paper* |

**+ None**

* used before a determiner (*the, my, this* etc.) or a pronoun as *none of*

e.g. *none of his arguments, none of the work* …

* used alone if the meaning is clear

e.g. *How many books have you read? – None.*

**Every**

* determiner used normally before a singular noun

e.g. *I see her every day*.

* Used with body/one/thing/where also with a singular noun.

e.g. *Everybody is here.*

*Everything I like is here.* etc.

**Articles**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Means** | **Introduces** | **Use it with** |
| **A /an** | one of many | a new item of info  *I live in a house.* | singular countable nouns |
| **The** | the only one(s)  or  the particular one(s) | items we have mentioned before  or  when the speaker and listener know which items we are talking about  *The house is on the outskirts.* | countable  and  uncountable nouns |
| **No article** | all  or  that quantity is uncertain or unimportant | things in a general sense  *Life is wonderful*. | uncountable nouns  and  plural countable nouns |

**Special uses of articles**

**!countries!**

Spain, Portugal, Great Britain

the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, the United States

the Netherlands

**!continents!**

Africa, South America

**!cities!**

Prague, Venice

the Hague

**!mountain!**

Etna, Mt. Everest

**!mountain ranges!**

the Alps, the Rocky Mountains

**!oceans, seas, rivers, canals!**

the Pacific Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea, the Nile, the Channel

**!lakes!**

Lake Superior

**!streets, roads, squares, parks!**

Wall Street, Broadway; Queens Road, Abbey Road; Times Square, Broadway; Hyde Park

**Fixed expressions:**

Travel by train/by bus/by plane

Have breakfast/lunch/dinner

Watch TV

Go home/ come home

x

Listen to the radio

Play the guitar/ the piano

Go to the cinema/the theatre

**Different meanings:**

Children go to school. x My father is at the school now.

He is in hospital as he broke his leg. x They visited him in the hospital.

(*church, prison, college, universit*y work in the same way)

**Shops and Places in Town**

Baker´s, Bakery – bread, rolls, cakes, donuts

Butcher´s – meat, sausages, salami, ham

Greengrocer´s (Fruit and Vegetables) – fruit and vegetable

Grocery “hokynářství”

Clothes shop/ Women´s Wear

Chemist´s (UK) = drugstore (US) – pills, tablets, toothpaste, toothbrush …

Pharmacy – drugs, plasters

Confectionery/ Sweet Shop/ Cake Shop

Toy Shop

Off – Licence

Pet Shop

Bookshop

Stationery (shop)

Newsagent´s

Electrical Appliances

Flower Shop – Florist´s

Shoe Shop

Jewelry (shop)

Sport´s Shop

Hardware Shop/Store - DIY stores

Housewares

Hairdresser´s + Barber

Optician

Hospital

Post Office

Library

Travel Agent

Real Estate Agent/Realtor

Charity Shop

Dry Cleaner

Launderette

etc.

<http://www.workmobility.eu/en_en/money/what_are_the_different_types_of_shops.html>