Countable and Uncountable Nouns-Part 1

1. Complete the explanation

In English nouns are divided into two groups: countable and uncountable.

As a general rule countable nouns have a clear (shape). Countable nouns can usually be both (definite/real) things or (abstract) things.

Uncountable nouns do not have a clear (shape). For example, (liquids) , powders and things which are just impractical to count. Sometimes countable nouns become uncountable when they are cut, mashed and so on. As with countable nouns uncountable nouns can also be (definite/real) things or (abstract) things.

The same form of a noun can often be definite/real or abstract depending on the situation. For example:

- -Didn't you hear a <u>noise</u>? (countable)
- -I can't study. There is too much noise. (uncountable)

Countable and Uncountable Nouns-Part 2

2. Complete the explanation

Countable nouns have both a (singular) and (plural) form. Uncountable nouns stay as they are.

In a sentence singular, countable nouns cannot be used as they are. They are always preceded by a, an, the, my etc. But "a" and "an" cannot be used with uncountable nouns.

(Numbers) can be used in front of countable nouns but not uncountable nouns.

(Some) and (any) can be used in front of plural countable and uncountable nouns but in this case plural "s" or (es) or (ies) must be added to countable nouns. (Many) and (few) can be used with (plural) countable nouns. (Much) and (many) can be used with uncountable nouns.

Answer Key

- 1 A) **Countable**: noise, accident, chair, people, day, photograph, sausage, bag, job. **Uncountable**: rice, paint, information, pork, soup, violence, software, noise, toothpaste, meat, patience, jewellery, blood, money, insurance, bread, curry, rain, air, luggage, traffic, work, furniture, petrol, news
- B) paint, information, petrol, photograph, traffic, bread, software, job, noise, work, violence

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2.
a) x (a car)
b) o
c) o
d) x ( an insurance company )
e) x ( an interesting game )
f) x (violence)
g) o
h) x
i) x (banana)
j) x ( my, the umbrella )
k) x (any money)
1) x (any, the, some)
m) o
n) o
o) x ( the, my )
p) o
q) x ( a big earthquake )
r) x ( a question )
s) o
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