UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

I. Names of Substances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bread</th>
<th>cream</th>
<th>gold</th>
<th>paper</th>
<th>tea</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beer</td>
<td>dust</td>
<td>ice</td>
<td>sand</td>
<td>water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloth</td>
<td>glass</td>
<td>jam</td>
<td>soap</td>
<td>wine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee</td>
<td>oil</td>
<td>stone</td>
<td>wood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Abstract Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advice</th>
<th>experience</th>
<th>horror</th>
<th>pity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beauty</td>
<td>fear</td>
<td>information</td>
<td>relief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courage</td>
<td>help</td>
<td>knowledge</td>
<td>suspicion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>hope</td>
<td>mercy</td>
<td>work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Also considered uncountable:

| Baggage   | furniture | luggage | weather |

- **Experience** meaning 'something which happened to someone' is countable:
  He had an exciting experience/ some exciting experiences (=adventure/s).

- **Work** meaning 'occupation/ employment/ a job/ jobs' is singular:
  He’s looking for work/ for a job.
  I do homework.

- **Works** can mean 'factory' or 'moving parts of a machine'.

- **Works** can be used of literary or musical compositions:
  Shakespeare’s complete works.
Some abstract nouns can be used in a particular sense with a/an, but in the singular only:

My children are a great help to me.
It was a relief to sit down.
He had a good knowledge of mathematics.
It's a pity you weren't there.
It's a shame he wasn't paid.
a love of music a hatred of violence

Uncountable nouns are always singular and are usually not used with a/an:

I don't want (any) advice or help. I want (some) information.
He has had no experience in this sort of work.

These nouns are often preceded by some, any, no, a little, or by nouns such as bit, piece, and slice of:

A bit of news a grain of sand a pot of jam
A cake of soap a pane of glass a sheet of paper
A drop of oil a piece of advice