

## UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

### 1. Names of Substances

Bread	cream	gold	paper	tea
Beer	dust	ice	sand	water
Cloth	glass	jam	soap	wine
Coffee	oil	stone	wood	

### 2. Abstract Nouns

Advice	experience	horror	pity
Beauty	fear	information	relief
Courage	help	knowledge	suspicion
Death	hope	mercy	work

### 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