

CHAPTER 11

Count/Noncount Nouns and Articles

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□ EXERCISE 1. Preview: using *A* and *AN*. (Charts 11-1 and 11-2)

Directions: Add *a* or *an* as necessary.

1. I never wear ^a hat.
2. We had ^{an} easy test yesterday.
3. I rarely put salt on my food. OK (*no change*)
4. Jack has wallet in his back pocket.
5. We had good weather for our picnic yesterday.
6. There was earthquake in Turkey last week.
7. Ball is round object.
8. Linda likes to wear jewelry.
9. Anna is wearing ring on her fourth finger.
10. My father enjoys good health.
11. Simon Bolivar is hero to many people.
12. I called Jim by the wrong name. It was honest mistake.
13. I had unusual experience yesterday.
14. Ann had unique experience yesterday.
15. I often ask my parents for advice.

11-1 A vs. AN

<p>(a) I have a pencil.</p> <p>(b) I live in an apartment.</p> <p>(c) I have a small apartment.</p> <p>(d) I live in an old building.</p>	<p>A and an are used in front of a singular noun (e.g., <i>pencil, apartment</i>). They mean "one."</p> <p>If a singular noun is modified by an adjective (e.g., <i>small, old</i>), a or an comes in front of the adjective, as in (c) and (d).</p> <p>A is used in front of words that begin with a consonant (<i>b, c, d, f, g, etc.</i>): <i>a boy, a bad day, a cat, a cute baby</i>.</p> <p>An is used in front of words that begin with the vowels a, e, i, and o: <i>an apartment, an angry man, an elephant, an empty room, etc.</i></p>
<p>(e) I have an umbrella.</p> <p>(f) I saw an ugly picture.</p> <p>(g) I attend a university.</p> <p>(h) I had a unique experience.</p>	<p>For words that begin with the letter u:</p> <p>(1) An is used if the u is a vowel sound, as in <i>an umbrella, an uncle, an unusual day</i>.</p> <p>(2) A is used if the u is a consonant sound, as in <i>a university, a unit, a usual event</i>.</p>
<p>(i) He will arrive in an hour.</p> <p>(j) New Year's Day is a holiday.</p>	<p>For words that begin with the letter h:</p> <p>(1) An is used if the h is silent: <i>an hour, an honor, an honest person</i>.</p> <p>(2) A is used if the h is pronounced: <i>a holiday, a hotel, a high point</i>.</p>

□ EXERCISE 2. A vs. AN. (Chart 11-1)

Directions: Write **a** or **an** in the blanks.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <u>a</u> mistake | 7. _____ uniform | 13. _____ hour or two |
| 2. _____ abbreviation | 8. _____ union | 14. _____ hole in the ground |
| 3. _____ dream | 9. _____ untrue story | 15. _____ hill |
| 4. _____ interesting dream | 10. _____ urgent message | 16. _____ handsome man |
| 5. _____ empty box | 11. _____ universal problem | 17. _____ honest man |
| 6. _____ box | 12. _____ unhappy child | 18. _____ honor |

□ EXERCISE 3. A vs. AN. (Chart 11-1)

Directions: Define the given words in complete sentences. Begin each sentence with **a** or **an**. Refer to a dictionary if necessary.

Example: indecisive person

→ *An indecisive person is a person who can't make up his mind.*

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. astronaut | 6. camel | 11. hourly wage |
| 2. microscope | 7. umbrella | 12. horn |
| 3. enemy | 8. unicorn | 13. unlit hallway |
| 4. ferry | 9. onion | 14. utensil |
| 5. absent-minded person | 10. honeymoon trip | 15. orchard |

11-2 COUNT AND NONCOUNT NOUNS

	SINGULAR	PLURAL	A count noun: (1) can be counted with numbers: <i>one chair, two chairs, ten chairs, etc.</i> (2) can be preceded by <i>a/an</i> in the singular: <i>a chair</i> . (3) has a plural form ending in <i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i> : <i>chairs</i> .**
COUNT NOUN	<i>a</i> chair <i>one</i> chair	\emptyset * chairs <i>two</i> chairs <i>some</i> chairs	
NONCOUNT NOUN	\emptyset furniture <i>some</i> furniture	\emptyset \emptyset	A noncount noun: (1) cannot be counted with numbers. <i>INCORRECT: one furniture</i> (2) is NOT immediately preceded by <i>a/an</i> . <i>INCORRECT: a furniture</i> (3) does NOT have a plural form (no final-s). <i>INCORRECT: furnitures</i>

* \emptyset = "nothing."

**See Chart 1-5, p. 13, and Chart 6-1, p. 157, for the spelling and pronunciation of *-s/-es*.

□ EXERCISE 4. Count and noncount nouns. (Chart 11-2)

Directions: Correct the mistakes. Some sentences contain no errors. Use *some* with the noncount nouns.

1. I bought one chair for my apartment. OK (no change)

2. I bought ^{some} ~~one~~ furniture for my apartment.*

3. I bought four chairs for my apartment.

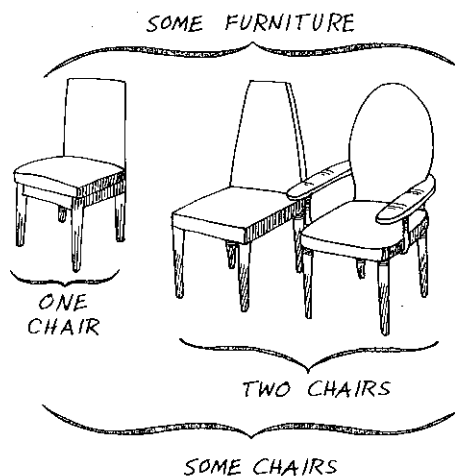
4. I bought four furnitures for my apartment.

5. I bought a chair for my apartment.

6. I bought a furniture for my apartment.

7. I bought some chair for my apartment.

8. I bought some furnitures for my apartment.



*CORRECT: I bought *some furniture* for my apartment. OR I bought *furniture* for my apartment. See Chart 11-8, p. 326, for more information about the use of \emptyset and *some*.

□ EXERCISE 5. Preview: count and noncount nouns. (Charts 11-2 and 11-3)

Directions: Write *a/an* or *some* in the blanks. Identify count and noncount nouns.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. I often have <u>some</u> fruit for dessert. | <i>fruit</i> | → count <u>noncount</u> |
| 2. I had <u>a</u> banana for dessert. | <i>banana</i> | → <u>count</u> noncount |
| 3. I got _____ letter today. | <i>letter</i> | → count noncount |
| 4. I got _____ mail today. | <i>mail</i> | → count noncount |
| 5. Anna wears _____ ring on her left hand. | <i>ring</i> | → count noncount |
| 6. Maria is wearing _____ jewelry today. | <i>jewelry</i> | → count noncount |
| 7. I have _____ homework to finish. | <i>homework</i> | → count noncount |
| 8. I have _____ assignment to finish. | <i>assignment</i> | → count noncount |
| 9. I needed _____ information . | <i>information</i> | → count noncount |
| 10. I asked _____ question . | <i>question</i> | → count noncount |

11-3 NONCOUNT NOUNS

INDIVIDUAL PARTS = THE WHOLE
(Count Nouns) (Noncount Nouns)

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------|
| (a) | letters
postcards
bills
etc. | <i>mail</i> |
| (b) | apples
bananas
oranges
etc. | <i>fruit</i> |
| (c) | rings
bracelets
necklaces
etc. | <i>jewelry</i> |

Noncount nouns usually refer to a whole group of things that is made up of many individual parts, a whole category made up of different varieties.

For example, *furniture* is a noncount noun; it describes a whole category of things: *chairs, tables, beds, etc.*

INDIVIDUAL PARTS = THE WHOLE

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| chairs
tables
beds
etc. | <i>furniture</i> |
|----------------------------------|------------------|

Mail, fruit, and jewelry are other examples of noncount nouns that refer to a whole category made up of individual parts.

SOME COMMON NONCOUNT NOUNS: WHOLE GROUPS MADE UP OF INDIVIDUAL PARTS

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| A. <i>clothing</i>
<i>equipment</i>
<i>food</i>
<i>fruit</i>
<i>furniture</i>
<i>jewelry</i>
<i>mail</i>
<i>money</i>
<i>scenery</i>
<i>stuff</i>
<i>traffic</i> | B. <i>homework</i>
<i>housework</i>
<i>work</i> | E. <i>grammar</i>
<i>slang</i>
<i>vocabulary</i> | G. <i>corn</i>
<i>dirt</i>
<i>flour</i>
<i>hair</i>
<i>pepper</i>
<i>rice</i>
<i>salt</i>
<i>sand</i>
<i>sugar</i> |
| | C. <i>advice</i>
<i>information</i> | F. <i>Arabic</i>
<i>Chinese</i>
<i>English</i>
<i>German</i>
<i>Indonesian</i>
<i>Spanish</i>
<i>Etc.</i> | |
| | D. <i>history</i>
<i>literature</i>
<i>music</i>
<i>poetry</i> | | |

□ EXERCISE 6. Count and noncount nouns. (Charts 11-2 and 11-3)

Directions: Add final **-s/-es** if possible. Otherwise, write a slash (/) in the blank.

1. I'm learning a lot of **grammar** ____/____.
2. We're studying count and noncount **noun** s ____.
3. City streets usually have a lot of **traffic** ____.
4. The streets are full of **automobile** ____.
5. We enjoyed the **scenery** ____ in the countryside.
6. Nepal has high **mountain** ____.
7. I have some important **information** ____ for you.
8. I have some important **fact** ____ for you.
9. Olga knows a lot of English **word** ____.
10. Olga has learned a lot of new **vocabulary** ____.
11. The children learned a lot of new **song** ____ in nursery school.
12. I enjoy listening to **music** ____.
13. Can you give me some **suggestion** ____?
14. Can you give me some **advice** ____?
15. I like to read good **literature** ____.
16. I like to read good **novel** ____.
17. I had **sand** ____ in my shoes from walking on the beach.
18. Florida is famous for its white sand **beach** ____.

11-4 MORE NONCOUNT NOUNS

(a) **LIQUIDS**

coffee soup
milk tea
oil water

SOLIDS and SEMI-SOLIDS

bread meat chalk paper
butter beef glass soap
cheese chicken gold toothpaste
ice fish iron wood

GASES

air
pollution
smog
smoke

(b) **THINGS THAT OCCUR IN NATURE**

weather darkness thunder
rain light lightning
snow sunshine

(c) **ABSTRACTIONS***

beauty fun health ignorance patience time
courage generosity help knowledge progress violence
experience happiness honesty luck

*An abstraction is an idea. It has no physical form. A person cannot touch it.

Directions: Add final **-s/-es** if possible. Otherwise, write a slash (/) in the blank.

1. I made some **mistake** s on my algebra test.
2. In winter in Alaska, there (is, are) **snow** / on the ground.
3. Alaska has a lot of cold **weather** _____.
4. We have a lot of **storm** _____ in the winter.
5. There (*is, are*) some **chalk** _____ in this classroom.
6. Be sure to give the new couple my best **wish** _____.
7. I want to wish them good **luck** _____.
8. **Thunder** _____ and **lightning** _____ can be scary for children and animals.
9. **Gold** _____ (*is, are*) expensive. **Diamond** _____ (*is, are*) expensive too.
10. I admire Prof. Yoo for her extensive **knowledge** _____ of organic farming methods.
11. Prof. Yoo has a lot of good **idea** _____ and strong **opinion** _____.
12. Teaching children to read requires **patience** _____.
13. Doctors take care of **patient** _____.
14. Mr. Fernandez's English is improving. He's making a lot of **progress** _____.
15. Automobiles are the biggest source of **pollution** _____ in most cities.
16. Engineers build **bridge** _____ across **river** _____ and other **body** _____ of **water** _____.

EXERCISE 6. Nouncount abstractions. (Chart 11-4)

Directions: Complete the sentences in Column A with words from Column B. The completed sentences will be common sayings in English.

Example: Ignorance is bliss.

("Ignorance is bliss" is a saying. It means: If you know about problems, you have to worry about them and solve them. If you don't know about problems, you can avoid them and be happy [*bliss* = *happiness*]. Do you agree with this saying?)

Column A

1. Ignorance is D
2. Honesty is _____
3. Time is _____
4. Laughter is _____
5. Beauty is _____
6. Knowledge is _____
7. Experience is _____

Column B

- A. the best teacher.
- B. the best medicine.
- C. power.
- ✓D. bliss.
- E. in the eye of the beholder.
- F. money.
- G. the best policy.

1. A: Can I have some money, Dad?

B: What for?

A: I want to go to the movies with my friends and hang around the mall.

B: What you need is a job! _____ money doesn't grow on _____ trees, you know.

20. A doctor cures _____ sick people. _____ farmer grows _____ crops. _____ architect designs _____ buildings. _____ artist creates _____ new ways of looking at _____ world and _____ life.

21. _____ earthquakes are _____ rare events in central Africa.

22. My city experienced _____ earthquake recently. I was riding my bicycle when _____ earthquake occurred. _____ ground beneath me trembled so hard that it shook me off my bike.

23. A: I saw _____ good program on TV last night.

B: Oh? What was it?

A: It was _____ documentary about wildlife in Indonesia. It was really interesting. Did you see it too?

B: No, I watched _____ old movie. It wasn't very good. I wish I'd known about _____ documentary. I would have watched it.

24. _____ modern people, just like their ancestors, are curious about _____ universe. Where did _____ moon come from? Does _____ life exist on other planets? What is _____ star? How large is _____ universe? How long will _____ sun continue to burn?

☐ EXERCISE 25. Preview: using THE or Ø with names. (Chart 11-9)

Directions: Complete with *the* or *Ø*.

I would like to know more about . . .

1. the Amazon River.

2. Ø Korea.

3. _____ Mexico City.

4. _____ Indian Ocean.

5. _____ Ural Mountains.

6. _____ Australia.

7. _____ Mississippi River.

8. _____ Red Sea.

9. _____ Lake Michigan.

10. _____ Mount Fuji.

11
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

11-9 USING *THE* OR Ø WITH NAMES

(a) We met Ø Mr. Wang. I know Ø Doctor Smith. Ø President Rice has been in the news.	<i>The</i> is NOT used with titled names. <i>INCORRECT: We met the Mr. Wang.</i>
(b) He lives in Ø Europe. Ø Asia is the largest continent. Have you ever been in Ø Africa?	<i>The</i> is NOT used with the names of continents. <i>INCORRECT: He lives in the Europe.</i>
(c) He lives in Ø France. Ø Brazil is a large country. Have you ever been in Ø Thailand?	<i>The</i> is NOT used with the names of most countries. <i>INCORRECT: He lives in the France.</i>
(d) He lives in <i>the</i> United States. <i>The</i> Netherlands is in Europe. Have you ever been in <i>the</i> Philippines?	<i>The</i> is used in the names of only a few countries, as in the examples. Others: <i>the Czech Republic, the United Arab Emirates, the Dominican Republic.</i>
(e) He lives in Ø Paris. Ø New York is the largest city in the United States Have you ever been in Ø Istanbul?	<i>The</i> is NOT used with the names of cities. <i>INCORRECT: He lives in the Paris.</i>
(f) <i>The</i> Nile River is long. They crossed <i>the</i> Pacific Ocean. <i>The</i> Yellow Sea is in Asia.	<i>The</i> is used with the names of rivers, oceans, and seas.
(g) Chicago is on Ø Lake Michigan. Ø Lake Titicaca lies on the border between Peru and Bolivia.	<i>The</i> is NOT used with the names of lakes.
(h) We hiked in <i>the</i> Alps. <i>The</i> Andes are in South America.	<i>The</i> is used with the names of mountain ranges.
(i) He climbed Ø Mount Everest. Ø Mount Fuji is in Japan.	<i>The</i> is NOT used with the names of individual mountains.

□ EXERCISE 26. Using *THE* or Ø with names. (Chart 11-9)

Directions: Complete with *the* or Ø.

- Ø Rome is in Ø Italy.
- The* Rhine River flows through Ø Germany.
- _____ Moscow is the capital of _____ Russia.
- _____ Yangtze is a famous river.
- _____ Atlantic Ocean is smaller than _____ Pacific.
- _____ Rocky Mountains are located in _____ Canada and _____ United States.
- _____ Doctor Anderson is a good physician.
- _____ Lake Victoria is located in _____ Africa.