

E-RESOURCE CENTER

GRAMMAR TUTORIALS

Grammar Handout

Count and non-count nouns

- **COUNT NOUNS** are nouns that can be made plural.

Most nouns are made plural by adding an <i>-s</i> (or <i>-es</i> , <i>-ies</i>).	<i>Ideas</i> <u>s</u> ; <i>roles</i> <u>s</u> ; <i>proposals</i> <u>s</u> ; <i>assumptions</i> <u>s</u> ; <i>beliefs</i> <u>s</u> ; <i>wishes</i> <u>s</u> ; <i>speeches</i> <u>s</u> ; <i>policies</i> <u>s</u> ; <i>theories</i> <u>s</u>
Some nouns have irregular plural forms.	<i>person</i> → <i>people</i> <i>woman</i> → <i>women</i> <i>man</i> → <i>men</i> <i>child</i> → <i>children</i>

- **NON-COUNT NOUNS** are nouns that cannot be made plural.

ABSTRACT IDEAS	<i>freedom, peace, equality, anger, happiness, knowledge</i>
CATEGORY	<i>jewelry, furniture, machinery, clothing</i>
MATERIALS AND LIQUIDS	<i>coal, oil, water, steel, cotton, wood, plastic, rayon</i>
ACTIVITIES	<i>reading, studying, driving, voting, protesting</i>
ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES	<i>Mathematics, Sociology, Economics, Chemistry</i>
OTHER NON-COUNT NOUNS COMMONLY MISTAKEN FOR COUNT NOUNS	<i>information, help, evidence, advice, homework, research, development</i>

- Some nouns are **COUNT** or **NON-COUNT** depending on how they are used.

COUNT	NON-COUNT
ABSTRACT IDEA <i>Culture</i> can define a person's behavior	SPECIFIC EXAMPLE <i>East Asian cultures</i> have some similarities.
CATEGORY <i>Drinking wine</i> in moderation can have health benefits.	ITEMS FROM THAT CATEGORY <i>France</i> is a country known for its fine <i>wines</i> .
MATERIAL <i>Pollution</i> from <i>coal</i> is dangerous.	PIECES OF THAT MATERIAL <i>The coals</i> in the fireplace burned brightly.