

UNIT
50

Countable and uncountable nouns

A Nouns can be either **countable** or **uncountable**. Countable nouns are those which can have the word **a/an** before them or be used in the plural. Uncountable nouns are not used with **a/an** or in the plural. This sentence includes countable nouns in bold:

- We've got three **children**, two **cats**, and a **dog**.

This sentence includes uncountable nouns in bold:

- It was good to get out into the **countryside** and breathe in some fresh **air**.

B Some nouns in English are normally uncountable; in many other languages they are countable:

- There's always lots of **housework** to do.
- Her **jewellery** must have cost a fortune.

Here are some more nouns like this: **accommodation, advice, applause, assistance, baggage, camping, cash, chaos, chess, clothing, conduct, courage, cutlery, dancing, dirt, employment, equipment, evidence, fun, furniture, harm, health, homework, housing, information, leisure, litter, luck, luggage, machinery, money, mud, music, news, nonsense, parking, pay, permission, photography, poetry, pollution, produce, progress, publicity, research, rubbish, safety, scenery, shopping, sightseeing, sunshine, transport, underwear, violence, weather, work.**

C Sometimes a noun is used uncountably when we are talking about the whole substance or idea, but countably when we are talking about

■ recognised containers for things. Compare:

- I prefer **tea** to coffee. *and* • Three **teas** (= cups of tea), please.

■ a type, brand or make of thing. Compare:

- There's **cheese** in the fridge. *and* • There were dozens of **cheeses** (= kinds of cheese) to choose from.

■ a particular example of a physical or concrete thing. Compare:

- She has blonde **hair**. *and* • There's a **hair** in my soup!

■ a particular instance of a substance or an idea. Compare:

- The statue was made of **stone**. *and* • I had a **stone** in my shoe.
- She was always good at **sport**. *and* • Football is mainly a winter **sport** in Britain.

There are many nouns like this, including **beer, coffee, water; fruit, shampoo, toothpaste, washing powder; cake, chicken, land, noise, rain, snow, sound, space, stone; abuse, (dis)agreement, business, conversation, difficulty, dislike, fear, improvement, language, life, pain, pleasure, protest, success, thought, war.**

D Some nouns have different meanings when they are used countably and uncountably. Compare:

- Bolivia is one of the world's largest producers of **tin** (= the metal) *and*
- The cupboard was full of **tins**. (= metal food containers)

Other nouns like this include **accommodation, competition, glass, grammar, iron, jam, lace, paper, property, room, sight, speech, time, work.**

E Some nouns that are usually used uncountably can be used countably, but only in the *singular*, including **education, importance, knowledge, resistance, traffic**:

- She has an extensive **knowledge** of property prices in this area.
- The decision to build the bridge later took on an unexpected strategic **importance**.

The noun **damage** can be used countably, but only in the *plural*:

- Sue is claiming **damages** (= money paid as compensation) for the injuries caused.

EXERCISES

50.1 Choose two of the words below as the most likely ways of completing each sentence. For one answer you will need to make the word plural, and for the other you will need to make no change. (B)

accommodation bag equipment house jewellery job luggage
painting shower sunshine tool work

- On the weather forecast they said there would be this afternoon.
- The waiting room was so full of people and their, there was nowhere to sit.
- Repairing car engines is easy if you've got the right
- In Stockholm at the moment there's a fascinating exhibition of from 19th century Sweden.
- Both my brothers are looking for
- The price of has increased by 12% this year alone.

50.2 Choose from the words below to complete each sentence. Decide if the word should be countable or uncountable. If the word is countable, add a/an or make it plural as appropriate. (C)

chicken dislike improvement language life success

- Mary used to keep in her garden until they started to get out.
- A score of 40% may not be very good but it's certainly on her last mark.
- After so many previous, it was inevitable that one of his films would be unpopular.
- is too short to worry about keeping your house spotlessly clean.
- I've had of green vegetables ever since I was a child.
- Our students study both and literature in their English degree.

50.3 Choose from the words below to complete each pair of sentences. Use the same word in (a) and (b). Decide if the word should be countable or uncountable. If the word is countable, add a/an at an appropriate point in the sentence or make it plural. (D & E)

damage education traffic paper resistance speech

- a I had to go through ^a very strict and traditional education.....
b has been hit once again in the government's spending cuts.
- a was building up on the motorway as the fog got thicker.
b Since the war, illegal in weapons has grown.
- a Outnumbered by at least three to one, he knew that was useless.
b After a while we seemed to build up to mosquitoes.
- a The judge awarded Mr Sinclair of nearly £50,000.
b The accident caused some to my car but it wasn't worth getting it repaired.
- a Muriel gave at the conference on the psychological effects of divorce.
b The use of recycled is saving thousands of trees from being cut down each year.
- a It is said to be that distinguishes us from the other animals.
b We had to listen to some long and boring after the meal.

UNIT
84

Adjectives and adverbs

A

We use an **adverb**, not an **adjective**

- to say *how* something happened or was done:
 - I've always **greatly** enjoyed his novels. (*not ...great enjoyed...*)
 - The people who work in that shop always talk **politely** to customers. (*not ...polite...*)
- to modify adjectives, including participle adjectives (see Unit 85):
 - It was **strangely** *quiet* in the room.
 - They had a **beautifully** *furnished* house.

B

Some adverbs are formed from an **adjective + -ly**: **happy** → **happily**, etc. When an adjective already ends in **-ly** (e.g. **cowardly, daily, friendly, kindly, lively, lonely**) we don't add **-ly** to it to make an adverb. Instead we can use a prepositional phrase with **fashion, manner, or way**:

- He smiled at me in a **friendly way**.
- She waved her hands around in a **lively fashion**.

Most participle adjectives ending in **-ed** (see Unit 85) don't have an adverb form and we can use a similar prepositional phrase:

- They rose to greet me in a **subdued manner**.
- She walked around the room in an **agitated way**. (*or ...in agitation.*)



However, some do have an adverb form with **-ly**, including the following common ones:

allegedly, belatedly, contentedly, dejectedly, deservedly, excitedly, hurriedly, markedly, pointedly, repeatedly, reportedly, reputedly, supposedly, unexpectedly, wholeheartedly, wickedly:

- The weather had turned **unexpectedly** stormy.

C

Some adverbs have two forms, one ending **-ly** and the other not. We can sometimes use either of the two forms of the adverb without changing the meaning, although the form ending in **-ly** is more usual in a formal style:

- I'll be there as **quick(ly)** as I can.
- Try to sing **loud(ly)** in the last verse.



Other words like this include **cheap(ly), clean(ly), clear(ly), fine(ly), slow(ly), thin(ly)**.

D

In other cases there is a difference in the meaning of the adverb with and without **-ly**:

- She gave her time **free**. (= for no money) *and* She gave her time **freely**. (= willingly)
- I arrived **late** for the concert. *and* I haven't seen John **lately**. (= recently)

Here are some other pairs of adverbs that can have different meanings. Compare:



● Do I have to change trains in Leeds?' 'No, you can go direct (= without stopping).'	● I'll be with you directly (= very soon).
● She worked really hard and passed her exams.	● He saw Susan directly (= straight) ahead.
● He kicked the ball high over the goal.	● The telephone line was so bad, I could hardly (= only just) hear what he was saying.
● They cut short their holiday when John became ill. (= went home early)	● Everyone thinks highly of her teaching. (= they praise her for it)
● The door was wide (= completely) open so I just went straight in.	● The speaker will be arriving shortly (= soon). Please take your seats.
	● It won't be difficult to get the book. It's widely available. (= in many places)

E



Remember that **good** is an adjective and **well** is an adverb:

- I asked Francis to clean the car, and he did a **good** job. / ...and he did the job **well**.

However, **well** is also an adjective meaning 'healthy':

- You're not looking too **well**. Are you okay?

EXERCISES

84.1 Peter Thomas was recently sentenced to imprisonment for a bank robbery. Here are extracts from newspaper reports during and after the trial. Rewrite them using one of these adverbs to replace the underlined parts. Make any other necessary changes. (B)



allegedly belatedly deservedly repeatedly reputedly undoubtedly
unexpectedly wholeheartedly

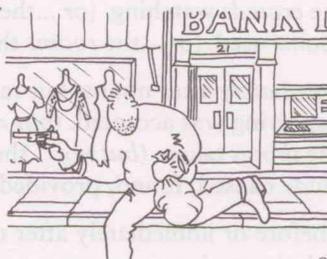
1 Thomas was said to have committed the robbery on the afternoon of the 21st June.

2 At first, Thomas's wife gave complete support to his claim that he was innocent.

3 A police spokesman said, 'We are sure that Peter Thomas knows something about this robbery.'

4 It is generally believed that Thomas hid the money somewhere close to his home.

5 His wife realised only much later that Thomas had been lying to her.



6 He denied being involved in the robbery over and over again.

7 It came as a surprise when Thomas confessed to the crime over a year later.

8 After the trial, Thomas's wife said, 'It was right that Peter was given a severe sentence.'

Example: 1 Thomas allegedly committed the robbery on the afternoon of the 21st June.

84.2 Rewrite the following sentences using one of the adverbs discussed in D.

- 1 I haven't cleaned the house recently. I haven't cleaned the house lately.
- 2 It wasn't easy to accept her decision.
- 3 They won, but the result wasn't at all surprising.
- 4 The leaflet is available at no charge from the town hall.
- 5 He walked into the office without knocking.
- 6 I am happy to admit that I was wrong.
- 7 I became a nurse soon after I left school.
- 8 Even though it was 2 am, I was completely awake.
- 9 Her name is known to many people.
- 10 The report strongly criticised the Minister's conduct.

84.3 Find the mistakes and correct them. If there are no mistakes, put a ✓. (A-E)

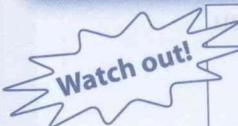
- 1 She speaks French fluent.
- 2 I think you behaved very cowardlily.
- 3 Everyone says that he's now enormous rich.
- 4 We'll never catch them up if you walk as slow as that.
- 5 She turned to him astonishedly. 'I don't believe you,' she said.
- 6 Wearing a white shirt and new suit, he thought he looked really well.
- 7 He plays the guitar remarkable good for his age.
- 8 Chop the herbs finely and sprinkle them on top of the pasta.
- 9 He stepped back and looked satisfiedly at the newly-painted door.

● Comparatives and superlatives / so, such, enough, too

Comparative and superlative adjectives

	adjective	comparative	superlative
regular adjectives with one syllable	<i>black</i>	+ -er <i>blacker</i>	+ -est <i>blackest</i>
regular adjectives with one syllable (ending in vowel + consonant)	<i>thin</i>	double final letter + -er <i>thinner</i>	double final letter + -est <i>thinnest</i>
regular adjectives with two syllables (ending in -y)	<i>funny</i>	replace -y with -ier <i>funnier</i>	replace -y with -iest <i>funniest</i>
regular adjectives with two or more syllables	<i>intelligent</i>	more / less + adj <i>more intelligent</i>	most / least + adj <i>most intelligent</i>
irregular adjectives / quantifiers	<i>good</i> <i>bad</i> <i>far</i> <i>little</i> <i>much</i> <i>many</i>	<i>better</i> <i>worse</i> <i>farther / further</i> <i>less</i> <i>more</i> <i>more</i>	<i>best</i> <i>worst</i> <i>farthest / furthest</i> <i>least</i> <i>most</i> <i>most</i>

Use	Example
Comparative To compare things or people that are different	The crime rate in this area is higher than in other parts of the country.
Superlative To compare one member of a group of people or things with the whole group	The robbery was the biggest in the bank's history.



- Regular adjectives with two syllables can often also form the comparative and superlative like adjectives with one syllable.
✓ **clever, cleverer, cleverest**
- Adjectives with one syllable that end in -e add -r and -st.
✓ **white, whiter, whitest**
- Remember that comparative forms are often followed by *than*.
✓ *Crime is a much **bigger** problem in this country **than** in many other countries.*
- Remember that superlative forms are often preceded by *the*.
✓ *Our local police force is **the best** in the country.*

Comparative and superlative adverbs

	adverb	comparative	superlative
regular adverbs	<i>easily</i>	more / less + adv <i>more easily</i>	most / least + adv <i>most easily</i>
irregular adverbs	<i>badly</i> <i>early</i> <i>far</i> <i>fast</i> <i>hard</i> <i>late</i> <i>often</i> <i>near</i> <i>soon</i> <i>well</i>	<i>worse</i> <i>earlier</i> <i>farther / further</i> <i>faster</i> <i>harder</i> <i>later</i> <i>more often</i> <i>nearer</i> <i>sooner</i> <i>better</i>	<i>worst</i> <i>earliest</i> <i>farthest / furthest</i> <i>fastest</i> <i>hardest</i> <i>latest</i> <i>most often</i> <i>nearest</i> <i>soonest</i> <i>best</i>

Use	Example
Comparative To compare actions that are different	Lock your door more carefully next time and maybe you won't get burgled!
Superlative To compare actions of one member of a group of people or things with the whole group	Only the criminal who ran fastest managed to escape from the police.

So

M. Mann and S. Taylor-Knowles (2006) Destination B2. Grammar and Vocabulary. Macmillan.

Form
 so + adjective + *that*
 so + adverb + *that*
 so + *many/much* + noun + *that*

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action	The burglar was so clever that no one could catch him. Jane took the money so quickly that no one saw her. There was so much money that the robber couldn't carry it all.

Watch out!

- The word *that* is not usually necessary to introduce the second clause.
 - ✓ The crime rate is **so** high people are very frightened.
- The word *so* has a number of other uses. Try not to get confused between them.
 - ✓ The crime rate is **so** high **that** people are very frightened.
 - ✓ I saw that burglar leaving the house, **so** I called the police.

Such

Form
 such + *a/an* + adjective + singular noun + *that*
 such + adjective + plural noun + *that*
 such + *a lot of* + noun + *that*

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action	It was such a terrible crime that the man was sent to prison for life. The security guard had such good hearing that he heard the door open immediately. There is such a lot of crime here that the police can't cope.

Enough

Form
 enough + noun (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)
 adjective + *enough* (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)
 adverb + *enough* (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)

Use	Example
To show the results of a situation or action where there is/isn't the right amount/number of something	There aren't enough police officers on the streets to keep us safe. It wasn't dark enough for the burglar to start working. Did the police respond quickly enough to help?

Watch out!

- A common mistake is to put *enough* before an adjective when the correct word is *quite* or *fairly*.
 - ✓ It's **quite** / **fairly** dangerous around here so don't go out alone.
 - X It's **enough** dangerous around here so don't go out alone.

Too

Form
 too + adjective (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)
 too + adverb (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)
 too + *many/much* + noun (+ *for* and/or + full infinitive)

Use	Example
To describe something that is more than necessary and which has a negative effect	The young man was too young to go to prison. We arrived too late for the start of the trial. We send too many innocent people to prison.

Watch out!

- We do not use *too* when we want to describe something we consider to be positive. Instead, we use *very*, *really* or *extremely*.
 - ✓ You were **very** / **really** / **extremely** lucky not to get caught.
 - X You were **too** lucky not to get caught.

A Complete using the comparative forms of the words in capitals.

- 1 Your brother is much (**TALL**) than mine.
- 2 This island used to be much (**GREEN**) before the forest fires.
- 3 Slow down! You're (**FIT**) than me and I can't keep up!
- 4 Veronica seems (**HAPPY**) since she moved schools.
- 5 It's actually (**TRENDY**) to wear your hair up this year.
- 6 As the time for the performance got nearer, I got (**NERVOUS**).
- 7 Old people are often (**WISE**) than young people.
- 8 Why don't you try and find a (**CHEAP**) computer game and save some money?
- 9 Matt seems to have got even (**LAZY**) than he used to be and almost never studies.
- 10 If the problem gets any (**SERIOUS**), we may need to inform the manager about it.
- 11 If you work (**QUICKLY**), you'll finish sooner and then you can go home earlier.
- 12 Ben says he's feeling much (**WELL**) after his illness.
- 13 I have even (**LITTLE**) free time this year than I did last year.
- 14 The news was much (**BAD**) than anyone had feared.
- 15 You'll need to be able to run (**FAR**) than this if you're going to do the marathon.

B Complete using the superlative forms of the words in capitals.

- 1 I think Mohammed Ali was the (**GREAT**) boxer that ever lived.
- 2 It was the (**BORING**) film I had ever seen.
- 3 Our teacher told us that the student with the (**HIGH**) mark would get a prize.
- 4 Ginger is one of the (**LUCKY**) cats alive – he's been hit by a car three times and has never been hurt!
- 5 Out of all the students in my music school, I practise (**OFTEN**).
- 6 The Pacific is the (**DEEP**) ocean in the world.
- 7 That's the (**UGLY**) fish I've ever seen!
- 8 I was ill before the exam and I did (**BADLY**) out of the whole class.
- 9 The (**FAR**) I've run in one day is about ten kilometres.
- 10 Don't you think this would be the (**LOVELY**) spot for a picnic?
- 11 But that's the (**CRAZY**) idea I've ever heard!
- 12 I asked the assistant to show me the (**MODERN**) phone they had.
- 13 I told the manager that it was the (**BAD**) hotel I had ever stayed in.
- 14 Who do you think is the (**LITTLE**) talented actor to win an Oscar?
- 15 Out of all the members of the choir, Jason sang (**WELL**).

C Circle the correct word.

FILM REVIEW

Crime Does Pay, the (1) **later / latest** comedy from director Sam Martin, has to be one of the (2) **little / least** interesting films I have ever seen. The acting is terrible and the story is much (3) **worse / worst** than Martin's other flop, *Escape*. *Crime Does Pay* was apparently (4) **more / most** expensive than any other film this year, but it's hard to see where the money went. The plot concerns a gang of burglars who decide to steal the (5) **more / most** valuable painting in the world. Fine, except these criminals are far (6) **less / least** amusing than they should be. There isn't a single real laugh in the whole movie. When I saw it, even (7) **younger / youngest** members of the audience thought it was stupidly childish. Dean Richards, playing Scarnose, does a slightly (8) **better / best** job than the others, but there isn't much in it. When will Hollywood realise that as ticket prices get (9) **higher / highest**, more people are finding that the (10) **well / best** form of entertainment is to spend an evening at home with a DVD?

D Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words in each gap.

- 1 I have never read a better book than this one. **ever**
This is the read.
- 2 Nobody has ever been this far into the jungle. **the**
This is has ever been into the jungle.
- 3 I have never worked so hard in my whole life. **ever**
It was the in my whole life.
- 4 Liam is the tallest boy in the class. **than**
Every other boy in the class Liam.
- 5 This is the nicest beach along this part of the coast. **than**
This the others along this part of the coast.
- 6 I read that Mount Everest is the highest mountain. **no**
I read that Mount Everest.
- 7 Has anyone ever been this far north before? **the**
Is has ever been?
- 8 The painting Ed did is the ugliest one you can imagine. **than**
You can't imagine the one Ed did.
- 9 This stamp is rarer than any other in my collection. **more**
The other stamps in my collection this one.
- 10 Nobody in the class runs as fast as Pedro. **runner**
Pedro in the class.

E Rewrite each sentence using *so... that*.

- 1 John can see over the wall because he is tall.
.....
- 2 I'm sure my sister will go to university because she is clever.
.....
- 3 I can't stop playing this computer game because it's good.
.....

- 4 Tim can't come out because he has a lot of work to do.
.....
- 5 It's hot, which means I can't sleep.
.....
- 6 Tina arrived late, which meant she missed the train.
.....
- 7 We don't have any money for luxuries because we have a lot of bills to pay.
.....
- 8 It takes a day to get to Australia because it's very far away.
.....

F Match to make sentences.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Last year, winter started so | A many storms that we had floods. |
| 2 Last winter, there were so | B cold that the water in the pipes froze. |
| 3 Last year, we had such | C a cold winter that I had to sleep with a hat on! |
| 4 Last winter, there was so | D suddenly that many people were taken by surprise. |
| 5 Last winter, there was such a lot of | E much snow that I skied nearly every day. |
| 6 Last winter was so | F snow that many wild animals died. |

G Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 I don't think there's **enough pizza / pizza enough** for everyone.
- 2 I'm afraid you're not **enough old / old enough** to see this film.
- 3 Luckily, we got to the box office **enough early / early enough** and got the tickets.
- 4 Anne's **enough sensible / sensible enough** to realise she needs to work hard this year.
- 5 If you don't train **enough hard / hard enough**, you'll never win the race.
- 6 Have you got **enough credits / credits enough** to call Yiota on your mobile?
- 7 It should be **enough warm / warm enough** for a picnic this weekend.
- 8 I don't think I'm good enough **for getting / to get** into the swimming team.
- 9 Are you sure you've got enough chairs for **us all to sit down / we all sit down**?
- 10 In mountaineering, you have to be strong enough **for pull / to pull** yourself up with your fingers.

H Tick (✓) the correct sentences. If a sentence is incorrect, write another word to replace the word in bold.

- 1 I wanted to get some new trainers but they were **too** expensive.
- 2 Japanese is a **too** difficult language for Westerners to learn.
- 3 Daniel's **too** good at art and he's starting art school next year.
- 4 Don't invite **too** many people to the party or we won't have enough room.
- 5 If you try to write your essay **too** quickly, you'll make mistakes.
- 6 My new computer is **too** fast and can run all the latest programs.
- 7 Joanne was fined for driving **too** fast.
- 8 Carol couldn't climb over the wall because it was **too** high.
- 9 Cornwall is **too** beautiful and we go there every year on holiday.

- 10 My grandparents are **too** old to work now and have retired.
 11 It was **too** dark for me to see the map and I got lost.
 12 My best friend is **too** funny and always makes me laugh.

I Choose the correct answer.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 It was windy that I couldn't stand up!
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> <p>2 Everyone had a good time when we went bowling that we agreed to go again.
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> <p>3 Emma and Karen used to be good friends that I'm surprised they don't get on now.
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> <p>4 I hope I've got money to pay for this meal!
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> <p>5 I'm sorry, but I've got much work to do to come to the beach today.
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> | <p>6 My mum was angry that I knew I'd better disappear for a while.
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> <p>7 They were beautiful shoes that I decided I had to get them.
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> <p>8 The earthquake was powerful that the town was destroyed.
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> <p>9 The shot was quick for the goalkeeper and the ball hit the back of the net.
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> <p>10 I had a bad headache that I went to lie down for a while.
 A so C enough
 B such D too</p> |
|---|--|

J Write one word in each gap.

CRIMESTOPPERS

'Hello, and welcome to *Crimestoppers*, the show that lets you, the viewer, help the police. We've had (1) a lot of letters this week that it's difficult to know where to begin. We'll start with the story of Mrs Pat Williams, of Cambridge. Last Friday, Pat decided to go into town with her baby daughter. It's (2) far to walk so they went to the bus stop. They waited (3) a long time that baby Caroline started to cry. Pat picked the baby up out of the pram and she was (4) busy she didn't notice the man beside her until it was (5) late. He grabbed her handbag and ran off (6) quickly for her to catch him. It all happened (7) fast that there was nothing anyone could do. Police are appealing for witnesses. Maybe you were in the area. Maybe you think that what you saw is (8) unimportant that the police won't be interested. Remember that no detail is (9) small to be useful to the police. Call us here at *Crimestoppers* now.'