

# Mohamed Kheider University of Biskra

## Faculty of Economics, Commerce and Management Sciences

### Department of Economy and Enterprises Management

Level: Master One

#### Lesson 1: Countable and uncountable nouns

Do you know how to use “**a, an, some, any much and many**”?

Look at these examples to see how to use countable and uncountable nouns in a sentence.

- I’m making **a** cup of tea.
- There’s **some** money on the table.
- Have we got **any** bread?
- **How many** chairs do we need?
- **How much** milk have we got?

Some nouns in English are countable. We can use them in singular and plural forms. Some are uncountable, they only have one form.

We often use *a/an* with singular countable nouns for a **positive** sentences and *some* with plurals. We can also use *some* with uncountable nouns.

❖ **Countable nouns** can be counted, e.g. an apple, two apples.

❖ **Uncountable nouns** cannot be counted, e.g. rice, water, etc...

**Ex:** There is **a** man at the door. / I have **some** friends in New York

- ❖ For **negatives** we use "a, an "with singular nouns or "any "for plurals.

**Ex:** I don't have **a** dog. /there aren't **any** seats.

- ❖ We use **some** with countable nouns in **positive** sentence and **any** with **negative**.

**EX:** There is **some** milk in the fridge. /there isn't **any** coffee.

- ❖ **In questions** we use **a, an, any** or **how many** with **countable nouns**.

**Ex:** Is there **an** email address to write? /**how many** chairs are there?

- ❖ And we use **any** and **how much** with **uncountable nouns**.

**Ex:** Is there **any** sugar? / **How much** orange juice is there?

- ❖ When we are offering something or asking for something we normally use **some**.

**Ex:** Do you want **some** chocolate? /can we have **some** more chairs, please?

- ❖ We also use **some** in question when we think the answer will be "yes".

**Ex:** Have you got **some** new glasses?

### **Other expression of quantity: "a lot of or lots of"**

- ❖ **A lot of or lots of** can be used with both countable and countable nouns.

**Ex:** There are **lots of** apples on the trees./ There is **a lot of** snow on the road .

❖ Notice that we don't usually use **many** or **much** in positive sentences, but we use **a lot** of instead.

**Ex:** They have a lot of money.

However, in **negative sentences** we use **not many** with countable nouns and **not much** with uncountable nouns.

**Ex:** There are **a lot of** carrots, but there are **not many** potatoes.

There's lots of juice, but is **not much** water.