

Helpful Categories for Classifying Non-count Nouns

Words to Know:

Count nouns refer to things that exist as separate and distinct individual units. They usually refer to what can be perceived by the senses. These nouns do have plural forms (ex. -s, es). Examples: apples, puddles, certificates

Noncount nouns refer to things that can't be counted because they are thought of as wholes that can't be cut into parts. They often refer to abstractions and occasionally have a collective meaning. Noncount nouns do not have plural forms (ex. -s, -es). Examples: research, homework, rice

Things Made Up of Small Pieces

Grass	dirt	oatmeal	salt
barley	flour	oregano	sand
cinnamon	gravel	pepper	spinach
corn	hair	popcorn	sugar
cornmeal	lettuce	rice	tapioca

Liquids

Paint	cream	kerosene	petroleum
beer	gasoline	Kool-aid	soup
blood	glue	lemonade	syrup
coffee	gravy	milk	water
coke	juice	oil	wine

Wholes Composed of Individual Parts

Collection (noncount)	Sample Component (count)
Mail	letter
baggage	suitcase
cash	dollar bill
food	sandwich
fruit	strawberry
furniture	table
garbage	banana peel
jewelry	necklace
lumber	board
machinery	gear
merchandise	microwave
pay	dollars and cents
scenery	waterfall

Gases

Helium	methane
air	oxygen
carbon dioxide	ozone
carbon monoxide	smoke
ether	sodium pentothal
hydrogen	steam
neon	tear gas

Solids, Minerals, and Elements

Lava	chicken	cotton	iron	penicillin
bacon	chocolate	fire	lamb	plastic
beef	cloth	glass	lead	silver
brass	coal	gold	meat	soap
bread	concrete	ham	mercury	steel
cheese	copper	ice	mold	wood

Handout Title

Fields of Study/Professional Fields

Astronomy	civics	geology	music
advertising	computer science	grammar	photography
biology	economics	history	physics
bookkeeping	engineering	law	poetry
Chinese	English	mathematics	politics

Sports and Recreational Activities

Archery	bridge	jogging	swimming
aerobics	checkers	Monopoly	tag
badminton	chess	Scrabble	tennis
baseball	football	soccer	water polo
bowling	hockey	surfing	volleyball

Natural Phenomena

Snow	climate	cold	darkness	dew	fog	frost	gravity	hail	heat
humidity	ice	light	lightning	mist	rain	sleet	snow	thunder	wind chill

Medical Conditions

Arthritis	hiccups	polio
AIDS	laryngitis	smallpox
cancer	measles	tetanus
emphysema	mumps	typhoid
flu	muscular dystrophy	tuberculosis

Abstract Ideas

Strength	equality	information	melancholy	selfishness
advice	fun	justice	news	serenity
anger	happiness	knowledge	patriotism	slang
applause	hatred	laughter	peace	trouble
courage	health	laziness	permission	wealth
crime	help	leisure	relaxation	wisdom
curiosity	ignorance	love	sanity	youthfulness
enjoyment	importance	luck	satisfaction	zip

Scientific Processes and Procedures

Fission	electroshock
anesthesia	fusion
birth control	liposuction
dialysis	radar
dissection	sonar