A noun can be classified as being either a count noun, which includes singular and plural nouns, or as a non-count noun. Non-count nouns are alternately referred to as collective nouns.

Navigating noun variants can be challenging at times. One reason for this is that some nouns have both count and non-count forms. Another reason is that a particular noun may function as a non-count noun in English but as a count noun in other languages.

**Count Nouns**

Count nouns typically have both a singular and plural form. You can usually place a number directly before a count noun.

- **A singular noun** refers to a single item
  
  One *textbook*, a journal *article*, a *criterion*, the *chapel*
  
  Monday’s *class*, your Writing Studio *appointment*, their basketball *team*

- **A plural noun** refers to multiple items
  
  The journal *articles*, four *criteria*, recent research *studies*
  
  What do you know about repairing the *drives* of *laptops*?

**Non-Count or Collective Nouns**

A non-count noun has only one form to represent a collective entity. Advice, economics, news, traffic, homework, and reading serve as non-count nouns in standard U.S. English dialect.

- What kind of *evidence* will support the model’s validity? [not: evidences]
- Our *knowledge* about the Higgs Boson particle has expanded. [not: our knowledges]
- “A little *information* is a dangerous thing,” proposed Alexander Pope.
- *Rice* serves as a food staple in many countries, but perhaps not in Ireland.

**Ways to adjust non-count nouns to indicate plural meaning**

- What are two *pieces of advice* about writing concisely? [not: the advices, two advices]
- He wants to incorporate more *types/pieces/kinds of evidence* in the essay. [not: more evidences]
- These *pieces of information* are related, or: additional facts [not: additional informations]
- Were many *slices* or *loaves* of moldy bread used in penicillin studies? [not: two/many breads]
Dual Forms of Nouns

Some nouns have separate count and non-count forms in everyday use

In the examples below, while the meanings of the two forms are related, the focus shifts. The non-count form focuses on a more general case and the count form on a more specific one.

Do you have much job experience in this area of management? (general)
What were a few of your many experiences during your summer internship? (specific)
The conference provided tea in the afternoon. (general) Which teas do you prefer? (specific)

Some nouns have a non-count form for everyday use and a count form for use within a profession or discipline. The meanings in these paired examples are similar

We have money in the bank, but our lawyer talks of monies. (general, specific)
What kind of literature do you most enjoy reading? (general)
I took a course on Spanish and Portuguese literatures last semester. (specific)
Belize designates English as its official national language. (general)
Did you enjoy your linguistics course on World Englishes? (specific varieties of English)

Some nouns have a count and a non-count form whose meanings differ

Supreme Court justices (judges) rule on matters of justice (fairness).
The air near the North Carolina coast has a salty edge to it.
People sometimes put on airs when they want to fit in or impress others.
See https://www.idioms.online/put-on-airs/

Special Cases of Plurality

Some count nouns exist solely in the plural, but cannot accept numbers as adjectives. These count nouns typically refer to tools or clothing.

Some surgical scissors are stored down the hall in the supply closet. [not: 4 scissors]
The researchers examined how touching buttons on some jeans caused skin problems for patients with nickel allergies. [not: 2 jeans]

Modifiers allow us to count such nouns

How many pairs of surgical scissors can be sterilized at once?
The researchers tested 90 pairs of blue jeans for the nickel content of their buttons.

For more information

https://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/noncount.htm
http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/determiners/determiners.htm#quantifiers