

# Quantifiers and Uncountable Nouns: Travel and Work

INTERMEDIATE

## Focus: Countable vs. Uncountable, Dual Meaning Nouns, and Problem Vocabulary

This worksheet focuses on using quantifiers correctly with countable and uncountable nouns, specifically in the context of **travel** and **work**. It also covers nouns that change meaning depending on whether they are countable or uncountable.

### 1. General Rules: Countable vs. Uncountable

Feature	Countable Nouns	Uncountable Nouns
Examples	<i>suitcase, job, tourist, hotel, chair</i>	<i>luggage, work, information, traffic, furniture</i>
Singular/Plural	Can be singular or plural ( <i>a job / jobs</i> ).	Always singular ( <i>work</i> ). Never add <b>-s</b> .
Large Quantities	Use <b>many</b> or <b>a lot of</b> .	Use <b>much</b> or <b>a lot of</b> .
Small Quantities	Use <b>few</b> or <b>a few</b> .	Use <b>little</b> or <b>a little</b> .

*Note: We usually use **much** and **many** in negative sentences and questions. In positive sentences, a lot of is more common, though many is possible in formal English.*

### 2. Some vs. Any

- **Some:** Generally used in **positive (+)** sentences.
  - *I have **some** luggage in the car.*
- **Any:** Generally used in **negative (-)** sentences and **questions (?)**.
  - *I don't have **any** information.*
  - *Do you have **any** advice for my trip?*

### 3. Common Problem Nouns (Always Uncountable)

These words are **uncountable** in English. They take a singular verb and cannot be used with *a/an*.

- **Travel:** *baggage, luggage, accommodation, transport, traffic, scenery.*
- **Work:** *advice, information, news, knowledge, progress, equipment, furniture.*
- **Wrong:** ~~He gave me an advice. / I have many luggages.~~
- **Right:** He gave me **some advice**. / I have **much luggage**.

### 4. Nouns with Dual Meanings (Meaning Shifts)

Some nouns can be countable or uncountable, but the meaning changes.

Noun	Uncountable Meaning (General/Material)	Countable Meaning (Specific Item)
<b>Room</b>	Space ( <i>There isn't much room in this taxi.</i> )	A room in a building ( <i>The hotel has 50 rooms.</i> )
<b>Time</b>	Clock time ( <i>We don't have much time.</i> )	Occasions ( <i>I have visited Paris three times.</i> )
<b>Paper</b>	Material to write on ( <i>I need some paper.</i> )	A newspaper/document ( <i>I bought a paper at the airport.</i> )
<b>Hair</b>	All hair on the head ( <i>He has dark hair.</i> )	Individual strands ( <i>There is a hair in my soup.</i> )
<b>Noise</b>	General sound ( <i>There is too much noise here.</i> )	A specific sound ( <i>I heard a strange noise.</i> )
<b>Coffee</b>	The liquid/substance ( <i>I love coffee.</i> )	A cup of coffee ( <i>Two coffees, please.</i> )

## Practice Exercises

**Instruction:** Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks. Pay attention to whether the sentence is positive (+), negative (-), or a question (?), and whether the noun is countable or uncountable.

- For **quantifiers**, choose between: *much, many, some, any, a, an, (a) few, (a) little*.
- For **nouns**, choose the correct form (singular or plural).

1. (+) We have \_\_\_\_\_ (some/any) exciting news about the business trip next week.
2. (-) I'm afraid there isn't \_\_\_\_\_ (room/rooms) in my suitcase for your heavy coat.
3. (?) How \_\_\_\_\_ (much/many) luggage are you taking with you to the airport?
4. (+) The hotel manager gave us \_\_\_\_\_ (a/some) very useful advice about local transport.
5. (-) I didn't sleep well because there was too \_\_\_\_\_ (much/many) noise coming from the street.
6. (?) Did you buy \_\_\_\_\_ (a/some) paper to read on the train, or are you just using your phone?
7. (+) The meeting room is empty; they haven't put \_\_\_\_\_ (any/some) furniture in it yet.
8. (-) She doesn't have \_\_\_\_\_ (much/many) time to finish the report before her flight.
9. (?) Have you been to London \_\_\_\_\_ (much/many) times before, or is this your first trip?
10. (+) The waiter was clumsy and dropped \_\_\_\_\_ (a/some) glass of water on my laptop.
11. (-) There aren't \_\_\_\_\_ (much/many) job opportunities in this small town.
12. (?) Can I give you \_\_\_\_\_ (a/an) piece of information regarding your flight schedule?
13. (+) Look! There is \_\_\_\_\_ (a/some) hair on the collar of your blazer. You should brush it off.
14. (-) We can't go to that restaurant; we have very \_\_\_\_\_ (little/few) money left in our travel budget.
15. (?) Do you have \_\_\_\_\_ (some/any) questions about the new project requirements?

## Answer Key

1. **some** (Uncountable/Positive)
2. **room** (Uncountable meaning: Space/Negative)
3. **much** (Uncountable noun: Luggage/Question)
4. **some** (Advice is uncountable, cannot use 'a')
5. **much** (Uncountable noun: Noise/Negative context)
6. **a** (Countable meaning: A newspaper)
7. **any** (Uncountable/Negative meaning - *haven't put*)
8. **much** (Uncountable meaning: Clock time/Negative)
9. **many** (Countable meaning: Occasions/Question)
10. **a** (Countable: A container/glass)
11. **many** (Countable plural: Opportunities/Negative)
12. **a** (Used with 'piece of' to make information countable)
13. **a** (Countable meaning: A single strand)
14. **little** (Uncountable: Money. 'Very little' emphasises scarcity)
15. **any** (Countable plural/Question)