Countable and Uncountable Nouns

What are Nouns?

Nouns are words that name people, animals, places, or things.

Countable Nouns

Definition: Countable nouns are the names of things we can count using numbers.

Examples:

- one toy, two toys
- four rabbits

three ducks

- three mangoes
- five pens

three kites

Key Features:

- They have both singular and plural forms.
- You can use numbers before them: one apple, two apples, etc.
- Use "many" or "a few" with countable nouns.

Quantifiers Used:

- Many, a few, several, some (in plural), a number of
- e.g., Many books, a few oranges

Uncountable Nouns

Definition: Uncountable nouns are the names of things we cannot count using numbers.

Examples:

- oil
- milk
- juice
- water
- sand
- rice

Key Features:

- They do not have a plural form.
- Always treated as singular.
- You cannot use numbers directly with them (not: two rices, three milks).

Quantifiers Used:

- Much, a little, a lot of, some (in singular)
- e.g., much sugar, a little water

Grammar Bytes – Quick Tips

Countable nouns = Can be counted = Have plural forms

Example: apple → apples

Uncountable nouns = Cannot be counted = Used in singular form only

Example: milk (no milks)