



Count and Noncount Nouns Exercises

Brought to you by the Purdue University Online Writing Lab.

Count and Noncount Nouns

Exercise 1

Are the following nouns count or noncount? Put an N next to the noncount nouns and a C next to the count nouns. If the noun can be either noncount or count depending on the context, put a D next to it.

world textbook acid smoking poetry applause thought	banana conduct progress biology essay crystal shopping
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Exercise 2

Put an X next to the words in the following list that can be used as either count or noncount nouns, depending on the context.

defense beauty_ garbage experience baggage_	rain rug nature bag emotion
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Exercise 3

Fill in the blank with the form of the noun in parentheses that is appropriate to the grammatical context of the sentence and the meaning of the passage as a whole.

Diabetes: Beyond the Basics

Because diabetes can cause devastating _____ (damage, damages) to virtually all body _____ (system, systems), people with diabetes should not underrate the seriousness of their disease. Learning to live with a chronic _____ (illness, illnesses) such as diabetes must be an ongoing process.

The Hospital's Center for Family Life Education is sponsoring a five-part educational series on diabetes. The series will begin on April 30 and continue through May 29. The _____ (program, programs) will be held in the second floor classroom of the Education Center from 7-9 p.m.

The diabetes series is free and open to the public and will be of specific _____ (interest, interests) to people who have diabetes and their families and friends.

Exercise 4

On the basis of the rules for using articles discussed in the OWL file "Count and Noncount Nouns," which combinations of words below are permitted and which ones aren't? Put an X next to the incorrect combinations.

a table these person this furniture that assignment a boy_	the poetry a difficulty a research this eggs those argument
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Exercise 5

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate article if one is needed.

The Computer Jungle

Though you can make ____ decision on purely economic grounds, buying ____ computer is often more like joining ____ religious cult. Buy ____ Apple, for example, and almost by default you join Apple chairman Steve Jobs in his crusade against IBM. Every machine has its "users' groups" and ____ band of loyal enthusiasts who tout its merits. That makes it all ____ more difficult for ____ uninitiated to decide what machine to buy. Students have ____ huge advantage, however. The computer companies are so eager for students' business (it builds "brand loyalty") that many offer huge discounts.

In the past six months, IBM, Apple, and others have brought out new computers, and ____ fierce competition has forced prices down. Also, time is on your side: next year at ____ time you'll have even more choice and more computing power and features for ____ same price. On ____ other hand, this will probably be true for many years. So for those who need or want ____ computer now, it's a great time to buy one.

Check your answers at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/esl/eslcountA1.html>, return to the handout at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/esl/eslcount.html>, or review our second handout on count and noncount nouns at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/esl/eslcount2.html>.

For more information about nouns and other parts of speech, see our parts of speech workshop at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/index2.html#parts>.

The following information must remain intact on every handout printed for distribution.

This page is located at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/esl/eslcountEX1.html>

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