Countable and Uncountable - compare your days and weeks

Work in pairs or threes. Ask about and tell each other about your days/weekends/weeks and:

Find whose day, weekend or week was healthier.

OR

Find things where your amount/number is higher than your partner (e.g. “a lot of sugar” vs “quite a lot of sugar”)

OR

Find things below which have been exactly the same for you and your partner today/this weekend/this week.

Useful questions to ask each other

“I… How about you/And you/What about you?”

“How many…?”/“How much…?”

Useful phrases to comment on what your partner says

“Me too”/“(Really?) I…”

“That’s (more or less) the same for me”

“That sounds…”

“I think yours is more… than mine”/“I think yours is …er than mine”

Suggested countable and uncountable things to talk about

- alcohol
- arguments
- biscuits/cookies
- bread
- butter
- calories
- cakes
- cigarettes
- coffee
- deadlines
- emails
- excitement
- (physical) exercise
- fast food/junk food
- fatty food
- fibre
- free time
- fried food
- fruit
- fruit juice
- fun/enjoyment
- healthy food

Written by Alex Case for UsingEnglish.com © 2016
• meals
• red meat (e.g. beef)
• overtime
• relaxation
• sleep
• soda (coca cola, etc)
• stress
• study
• sugar
• sweet food
• tea
• telephone calls
• time with family
• time with friends
• vegetables
• vitamins
• wine
• work

Suggested amounts to talk about

• a couple (of)
• a few…s
• a little
• a lot (of)… (s)
• a/ an/ one
• about ten
• almost no… (s)
• bag(s)
• bottle(s)
• box(es)/ packet(s)
• can(s)/ tin(s)
• carton(s)
• cup(s)/ mug(s)
• glass(es)
• jar(s)
• (kilo)gram(s)
• litre(s)/ pint(s)
• loaf/ loaves (of…)
• many…s
• not any… (s)
• not many…s
• not much
- one or two…s
- quite a lot (of) (…s)
- slice(s)
- so many…s
- so much
- some… (s)
- teaspoon(s)
- very few…s
- very little

As a whole class, ask about anything above you couldn’t understand or couldn’t use, working together to make a true statement and/or question that you could ask each time.
Countable uncountable grammar presentation

Without looking above, add “-s” to all the (countable) nouns below which can take a plural -s. Write a crossed off “-s” next to the other (uncountable)) ones. If you aren’t sure, think about if they take “How many…?” or “How many…?” in questions or if they need “-s” or not with “some…”

alcohol \hspace{1cm} \text{argument}
\text{biscuit/ cookie} \hspace{1cm} \text{bread}
\text{butter} \hspace{1cm} \text{cigarette}
\text{deadline} \hspace{1cm} \text{excitement}
(physical) exercise \hspace{1cm} \text{fibre}
\text{free time} \hspace{1cm} \text{fruit}
\text{fruit juice} \hspace{1cm} \text{fun/ enjoyment}
\text{meal} \hspace{1cm} \text{red meat}
\text{beef} \hspace{1cm} \text{overtime}
\text{relaxation} \hspace{1cm} \text{sleep}
soda (coca cola, etc) \hspace{1cm} \text{stress}
sugar \hspace{1cm} \text{tea}
telephone call \hspace{1cm} \text{time (with family/ with friends)}
\text{vegetable} \hspace{1cm} \text{wine}
work

Check your answers with the previous worksheets. Countable nouns already have “-s” on those worksheets.

Put words which can go before countable and uncountable nouns like “many” into the two columns below. Some words can go with both. Write a noun with each one, with the correct use of “-s” or no “-s”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>… + countable noun(s)</th>
<th>… + uncountable noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How many potatoes?</td>
<td>How much cheese?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hint: Five go with both countable and uncountable.
Put these words into the two columns above:

- a couple (of)
- a few
- a little
- a lot (of)
- a/ an/ one
- about ten
- almost no
- many
- not any
- not many
- not much
- one or two
- quite a lot (of)
- so many
- so much
- some
- very few
- very little

Look at the use of “-s” or no “-s” on the second page to help with the task above.

Check your answers as a class or on the next page.
### Suggested answers

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