



Countable & Uncountable Nouns: Tricky Uncountable Nouns & Common Mistakes

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. She gave me a very useful ____ .
a) piece of advice
b) advice
c) advices
d) an advice
2. All of our ____ was lost at the airport.
a) luggages
b) a luggage
c) luggage pieces
d) luggage
3. Which sentence is correct?
a) I have three homeworks tonight.
b) I have a lot of homework tonight.
c) I have a homework tonight.
d) I have many homeworks tonight.
4. The company bought new ____ for the office.
a) equipment
b) equipments
c) an equipment
d) some equipments
5. I need to buy ____ for the new apartment.
a) a furniture
b) furnitures
c) some furnitures
d) some furniture
6. She has three ____ to carry.
a) luggages
b) suitcases
c) luggage
d) baggage
7. The ____ about the earthquake was shocking.
a) news
b) new
c) a news
d) newses
8. We need more ____ before we make a decision.
a) informations
b) information
c) an information
d) some informations
9. Which sentence is correct?
a) He made a good progress.
b) He made good progresses.
c) He made many progresses.
d) He made good progress last term.
10. The scientists did important ____ on vaccines.
a) researches
b) a research
c) research
d) researchs
11. Can you give me ____ about the train times?
a) some information
b) an information
c) informations
d) a few informations

12. We had a lot of ____ on our trip.
a) funs
b) fun
c) a fun
d) the funs
13. My teacher gave us two ____ for the weekend.
a) homeworks
b) homework
c) piece of homeworks
d) assignments
14. Her ____ of English is excellent.
a) knowledges
b) a knowledge
c) knowledge
d) some knowledges
15. We need to buy ____ for the camping trip.
a) an equipment
b) some equipment
c) some equipments
d) a few equipments
16. I read an interesting ____ in the newspaper.
a) article
b) news
c) information
d) new
17. The ____ here is always unpredictable.
a) weathers
b) a weather
c) weather
d) some weathers
18. Which sentence is correct?
a) There are too many traffics.
b) There is a traffic on this road.
c) There are traffics everywhere.
d) There is too much traffic on this road.
19. She has years of ____ in this field.
a) experiences
b) an experience
c) experience
d) the experiences
20. I'd like to buy ____ from the bakery.
a) a bread
b) breads
c) some bread
d) some breads



Answers

1. a) piece of advice
2. d) luggage
3. b) I have a lot of homework tonight.
4. a) equipment
5. d) some furniture
6. b) suitcases
7. a) news
8. b) information
9. d) He made good progress last term.
10. c) research
11. a) some information
12. b) fun
13. d) assignments
14. c) knowledge
15. b) some equipment
16. a) article
17. c) weather
18. d) There is too much traffic on this road.
19. c) experience
20. c) some bread



Explanations

1. “piece of advice” (a)

'Advice' is uncountable. To talk about one instance, use the expression 'a piece of advice'. You cannot say 'an advice' or 'advices'.

2. “luggage” (d)

'Luggage' is uncountable. It takes the singular verb 'was' and has no plural form. 'All of our luggage' is correct.

3. “I have a lot of homework tonight.” (b)

'Homework' is uncountable. Use 'a lot of homework', not 'a homework' or 'homeworks'. 'Many' is only used with countable nouns.

4. “equipment” (a)

'Equipment' is uncountable. It has no plural form. 'New equipment' is correct — never 'equipments' or 'an equipment'.

5. “some furniture” (d)

'Furniture' is uncountable. Use 'some furniture' to express quantity. You cannot say 'a furniture' or 'furnitures'.

6. “suitcases” (b)

'Suitcase' is countable — 'three suitcases' is correct. 'Luggage' and 'baggage' are uncountable and cannot be used with 'three'. This is a case where the countable alternative is needed.

7. “news” (a)

'News' is uncountable and always singular, despite ending in 's'. 'The news was shocking' is correct. It has no further plural form.

8. “information” (b)

'Information' is uncountable. It has no plural form. 'More information' is the correct expression.

9. “He made good progress last term.” (d)

'Progress' is uncountable. It cannot take 'a' or be made plural. 'Good progress' (no article) is correct.

10. “research” (c)

'Research' is uncountable in standard English. We say 'important research', not 'researches' or 'a research'.

11. “some information” (a)

'Information' is uncountable. Use 'some information' for an unspecified amount. 'A few' is only for countable nouns.

12. “fun” (b)

'Fun' is uncountable. We say 'a lot of fun', not 'funs' or 'a fun'. Note: 'fun' can be an adjective ('a fun day'), but as a noun it is uncountable.

13. “assignments” (d)

'Homework' is uncountable, so 'two homeworks' is wrong. But 'assignment' is countable — 'two assignments' is correct. Use the countable alternative when you need a number.

14. “knowledge” (c)

'Knowledge' is uncountable. We say 'her knowledge of English', not 'knowledges' or 'a knowledge'.

15. “some equipment” (b)

'Equipment' is uncountable. Use 'some equipment'. 'A few' and plural forms cannot be used with uncountable nouns.

16. “article” (a)

'Article' is countable — 'an article' is correct. 'News' and 'information' are uncountable and cannot take 'an'. If you want to count news items, use 'article' or 'story'.

17. “weather” (c)

'Weather' is uncountable. It has no plural form and does not take 'a/an'. 'The weather is unpredictable' is correct.

18. “There is too much traffic on this road.” (d)

'Traffic' is uncountable. Use 'much traffic' (not 'many traffics'). It takes the singular verb 'is'.

19. “experience” (c)

When 'experience' means general knowledge gained over time, it is uncountable: 'years of experience'. The expression 'years of experience' is a fixed phrase that always uses the uncountable form.

20. “some bread” (c)

'Bread' is uncountable. Use 'some bread' when you want an unspecified amount. You cannot say 'a bread' or 'breads'.