

## Nouns and adjectives

### Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable and uncountable nouns	
Countable nouns ...	Uncountable nouns ...
can be singular or plural. <i>dollar</i> → <i>dollars</i> <i>bag</i> → <i>bags</i>	cannot be plural. <i>money</i> → <i>monies</i> <i>luggage</i> → <i>luggages</i>
are used with singular or plural verb forms. <b>A dollar doesn't</b> buy much these days. <b>Dollars aren't</b> a good investment at this time.	are only used with singular verb forms. <b>Money doesn't</b> grow on trees.

#### 1 much

We use *much* with uncountable nouns, mainly in negative sentences, questions and with *too*.

We don't have **much information** about the market.

How **much money** do you have?

I've got **too much luggage**. I can't carry it all.

#### 2 many

We use *many* with countable nouns, mainly in negative sentences, questions and with *too*.

There aren't **many people** here today.

How **many dollars** are there to the euro?

I've got **too many bags**. I can't carry them all.

#### 3 a lot of / lots of

We use *a lot of* and *lots of* with countable and uncountable nouns.

We have **lots of jobs** to do today.

We don't have **a lot of time**.

*A lot of* is a very common expression in informal spoken English. In more formal English we prefer other expressions like *a great deal of* + uncountable noun and *a great many* + countable noun.

4 We use *enough* with countable and uncountable nouns. We place *enough* before a noun and after an adjective.

My apartment isn't **big enough**. I don't have **enough space**.

## -ing forms

### Use

1 We use *-ing* to form part of continuous tenses.

I'm **flying** to Manchester tomorrow.

What **were** you **doing** when I called?

2 *-ing* forms can also be used as nouns. We can use them when an activity is the subject of a sentence.

**Taking** phone calls in a restaurant is bad manners.

3 We also use *-ing* forms after some verbs. This includes most of the verbs we use to talk about liking or disliking something.

I **like playing** games on my mobile.

I **hate people dropping** litter in the street.

I **don't mind waiting**.

4 Some adjectives also end in *-ing*.

It's **interesting** to look around other people's houses.

He has a very **annoying** habit.

5 In some cases there is a related adjective which ends in *-ed*. We use the adjective ending *-ed* to talk about how the person feels. We use the adjective ending *-ing* to describe the person or thing that causes the feeling.

I **was interested** to hear his talk. (Interested describes the reaction to the talk.)

He gave a very **interesting talk**. (Interesting describes the talk.)