



I cannot count it all!

CAPS Statement

Language structures and conventions

Working with words and sentences:

Understands and uses uncountable nouns (e.g. chalk)

Note

Uncountable nouns are items that you cannot count.
They only have one form, so there is no singular or plural.

Uncountable nouns do not have 'a' or 'an' before them, because you cannot count them individually.

Example

Sand is an uncountable noun. You can count the grains of sand, but you cannot count the sand itself.

Sand is seen in bulk, therefore you cannot say:

"Let us sit on a sand."

ask: "How much?" not "How many?" Answer with: "A little," not "A few".

Example

"**How much** sand do you need in your bucket?"

"Just **a little**, please."





Activity 1

Themba and Ayakha are at the beach. Study the beach scene carefully. There are some countable and uncountable nouns.



Answer 'yes' or 'no' to these questions:

Example

Question: Can you count the boys' hair?

Answer: No.

- ① Can you count the sand? _____.
- ② Can you count the clouds? _____.
- ③ Can you count the sky? _____.
- ④ Can you count the water? _____.
- ⑤ Can you count the boys? _____.
- ⑥ Can you count the picnic basket? _____.
- ⑦ Can you count the juice in the bottle? _____.



- 8 Can you count the juice bottles? _____.
- 9 Can you count the yoghurt pots? _____.
- 10 Can you count yogurt? _____.

Activity 2

Study the questions and your answers in Activity 1.

- 1 How many questions did you answer NO to? _____
- 2 How many questions did you answer YES to? _____
- 3 Complete the table below. Sort the NO and the YES answers into their correct places. Copy all the uncountable nouns into the first column and the countable nouns into the second column. One uncountable noun has been sorted for you.

NO, I cannot count uncountable nouns: I ask, 'How much?'	YES, I can count countable nouns: ask, 'How many?'
sand	

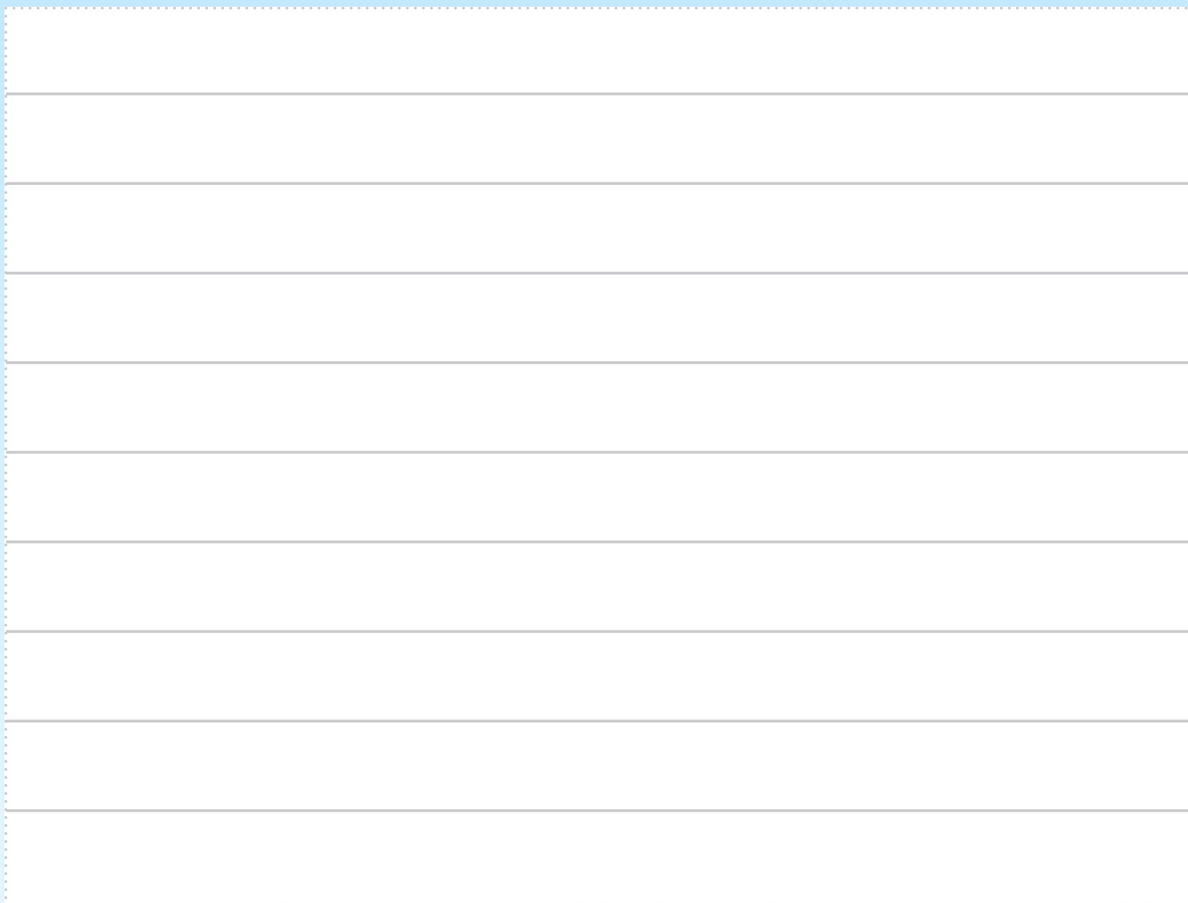
Activity 3

Take the uncountable nouns you sorted in Activity 2 and write a sentence about each in the space provided on the next page. You may write a paragraph about the beach setting in Activity 1 or write separate sentences. Use words such as: 'much', 'little', 'a little bit', 'a bit' and 'a lot of' to describe the uncountable nouns in your sentences.



Example

There was **a little bit** of wind blowing through the boys' hair while they sat on their picnic blanket.



Teacher Tip

Discuss countable nouns learners. Nouns that you can count have singular and plural forms. Ask 'how many?' and not 'how much?'

With countable nouns you can say, 'There are a few bananas left.' But with uncountable nouns you can say, 'There is only a little sugar left in the container.' Talk about these determiners that describe the nouns. As the three activities are all linked, make sure that learners answer correctly in Activity 1 before going on to Activity 2. The same applies with Activity 2: they need to know the five uncountable nouns before writing their sentences in Activity 3.

