



# Mac And Rory Grammar Stories Lesson Plan – Countable And Uncountable

## 1. Lesson Aim

The aim of this lesson is to help students to talk about ingredients for making a recipe, both countable and uncountable.

## 2. Warm-Up

Put some apples and oranges and a bottle of water on a table in front of your students. Now ask your students the following questions:

“How many apples are there?”

“How many oranges are there?”

“How do we count water?”

Your students might say there is one bottle or one jug of water.

You say, “No, that’s the bottle. How do I count the water?”

Have a discussion with your students and eventually conclude it by saying

we call these types of nouns (like water) uncountable and oranges and apples countable.

Ask your students if they can think of any more (e.g., salt, sugar, flour, air).

## 3. The Mac And Rory Grammar Story

Read the *Mac and Rory Grammar Story – Countable and Uncountable*. You can either bring students through the online version or hand out the paper version. If you are using the paper version, ask for volunteers to play the roles of Mac and Rory and get them to read the story aloud.

## 4. Vocabulary

Read the Glossary at the end of the story. Check that your students understand all the words and phrases.

**5. Story Discussion**

Go through each picture of the *Mac and Rory Grammar Story – Countable and Uncountable*, asking questions and explaining the grammar points as you go.

When there is one of something we put “a” or “an” in front of the noun.

- a lemon

When a noun starts with a, e, i, o or u, it gets “an”.

- an onion

Some things are easy to count, like...

- one lemon
- two onions
- three eggs

We call these countable nouns.

When we aren't specific about the number of things, we use “some” or “any”. “Any” is for the negative and questions.

- There are some eggs.
- Are there any eggs?
- There aren't any eggs.

When there is more than one countable thing, we make it a plural by adding an “s” for most nouns.

- egg      - eggs
- lemon   - lemons
- onion   - onions

With countable nouns we also use “many” in “how many?”

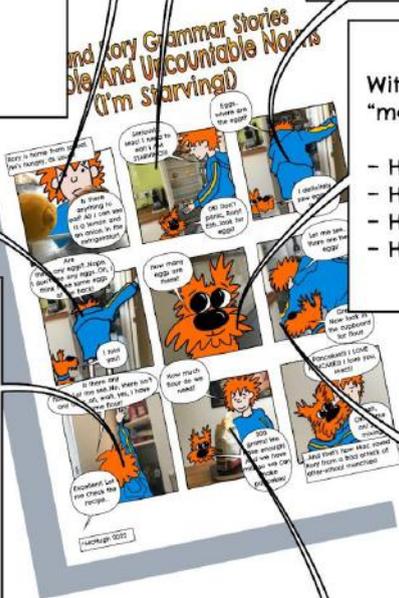
- How many eggs are there?
- How many lemons do you need?
- How many books do you have?
- How many clouds do you see?

For uncountable nouns we generally don't use the plural...

- flour... not flours
- sugar... not sugars
- butter... not butters

And we use the singular of the verb...

- There is some flour.
- Is there any flour?
- No, there isn't any flour.



Flour is not easy to count. So we call it an uncountable noun. Here are a few more examples of uncountable nouns...

- sugar
- milk
- salt
- chocolate
- water

For uncountable nouns we use “much” in “how much?”

- How much flour do we need?
- How much butter is there?
- How much milk is left?
- How much chocolate did you eat?

## 6. Practice Sheet

Ask your students to complete *the Mac And Rory Grammar Story Practice Sheet*.

## 7. TV Chef

Ask your students to work in pairs. Ask them to pretend that they are a TV presenter and a TV chef. Imagine that the TV chef is preparing a dish while the TV presenter asks them questions about ingredients. Tell them it's live TV so lots of things can go wrong! Give your students 5 minutes to prepare and then ask volunteers to present their scene to the class.

Here are some phrases you can write on the board to help your students.

### TV Presenter

- What are you cooking for us today?
- What's this?
- How much \_\_\_\_\_ do you add?
- How many \_\_\_\_\_ do you need for this recipe?
- How long do you put it in the oven?

### TV Chef

- I'm making a lovely (cake, casserole, soup) today.
- I'm using... (tomatoes, onions, potatoes, lemons, meat)
- I'm adding some... (oil, butter, salt, sugar, water)

## 8. Homework (10 minutes)

What are the ingredients for dinner? Go home and ask whoever is making your dinner to tell you what ingredients they are using for dinner. At the top of the page put My Dinner's Ingredients. Make two lists in your copy book. In one list for countable ingredients, the other list for uncountable ingredients.

## 9. Summary And Finish

Summarise\* what you did in today's lesson for your students. Then give a quick quiz.

Call out a list of nouns and ask your students to say if they are countable or uncountable nouns.

\*summarise (UK English) summarize (US English)

## 10. Extra Activities

### Dictation

Rory is hungry. He is looking for something to eat. He looks in the fridge\*. There is a lemon, some milk and some eggs. What can he make with those ingredients?

### A real TV chef

Donal Skehan is one of Ireland's favourite\* TV chefs. Mac and Rory love looking at his TV show. Play his video of how he makes scones on his YouTube channel...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYEyWPJYIqY> . Scones are delicious. Tell

your students they don't have to understand everything, just listen out for the words they know and understand.

- Ask your students to name some ingredients that Donal uses (flour, sugar, butter, currants, milk, eggs, baking powder).
- What does dough mean?
- What is a rolling pin?
- What does he put on top of the scone? (egg wash and some sugar)
- What does Donal prefer on his scone?

\*fridge (UK English) refrigerator (US English)  
favourite (UK English) favorite (US English)