

## Singular Plural Grammar Tutorial Worksheet

### *For the Tutor*

Some nouns are both countable and noncountable, depending on the meaning of the word and situation in which the word is used. Generally, if a noun can be made plural, it is countable – but not always. For example, *intelligence* is generally considered to be noncountable. Yet it is now common to discuss Howard Gardner's *theory of multiple intelligences* in an academic atmosphere. This can cause confusion for your ESL writers. Distinguishing between nouns that are countable, noncountable, or both is a lengthy and difficult task for most L2 writers of English and must be learned by experience.

### *For the ESL Writer*

Study the following:

#### SOME NOUNS THAT ARE BOTH COUNTABLE AND NONCOUNTABLE

water	hair	work
truth	light	soda
money	intelligence	email
candy	cake	room

#### EXAMPLES

- Would you like some of this chocolate *cake*? (noncountable)
- We baked three *cakes* for the fundraiser. (countable)
- In some *lights*, Pa looks blonde. (countable)

Correct the following:

#### PRACTICE SENTENCES

- How many *soda* did you order?
- Have you read the complete *work* of Emily Dickinson?
- Does Huii have enough *rooms* at the end of the table?
- Shakiba had her *hairs* cut and styled yesterday.
- Ricardo strongly believes in telling the *truths*.

Bruce, S. & Rafoth, B. (Eds.), (2009). *ESL writers; A guide for writing center tutors*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.).  
Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook.