

### Confusing count/noncount words

#### Noncount

homework  
work  
vocabulary, slang  
information  
advice  
fruit

#### Count

an assignment, assignments  
a job, jobs  
a word, words, an idiom, idioms  
a fact, facts  
a suggestion, suggestions  
vegetables

Some words can be noncount or count:

#### Noncount

Paper “Here is some paper.”

coffee “I like coffee.”  
(also true for beer, wine, soda, etc.)

fish = to eat “I like fish.”

chicken = meat  
“We eat a lot of chicken.”

hamburger = meat  
“I need to buy a pound of hamburger.”

light  
“The evening light is wonderful.”

life  
“Life can be difficult.”

time  
“I have some free time.”

crime  
“Crime is a big problem.”

glass  
“The window is made of glass.”

education  
“Education is important.”

marriage  
“Marriage is a big part of life.”

#### Count

a paper, papers = composition  
“I need to write a paper”

a coffee, coffees = cups of coffee.  
“Two coffees, please.”

a fish, fish  
“We caught three fish.”  
fishes = types of fish  
“The ocean has hundreds of fishes.”

a chicken, chickens = animal  
“I have three chickens.”

a hamburger, hamburgers = sandwich  
“Two hamburgers, please.”

a light, lights  
“There are four lights in this room.”

a life, lives  
“The lifeguard has saved three lives.”

one time, times  
“I’ve been there three times.”

a crime, crimes  
“She has committed several serious crimes.”

a glass, glasses “He had three glasses of water.”  
glasses “I can’t see well. I need glasses.”

an education  
“I want to get a good education.”

a marriage, marriages  
“This is her third marriage.”