Nouns in Depth (Countable and Uncountable Nouns)

Student workbook: attempt every question before looking at the solutions manual.

O1	Tell countable nouns from uncountable nouns, using three simple tests.
O2	Make the plural of countable nouns, including common irregular plurals.
O3	Choose the right partner words: a / an, singular or plural verbs, many / much, a few / a little, a lot of, some.
O4	Count uncountable things with unit words (a glass of, a piece of), and use nouns that can be both countable and uncountable.

O1: Tell countable nouns from uncountable nouns, using three simple tests.

Q01 [Foundational · classification]

Countable or uncountable? chair, water, idea, sugar.

Q02 [Foundational · multiple choice]

Which noun is uncountable? (a) bag (b) luggage (c) suitcase (d) ticket

Q03 [Foundational · true/false]

True or false: 'information' has a plural form, 'informations'.

Q04 [Core · classification]

Sort into two groups: advice, coin, money, problem, music, song, homework, exercise.

Q05 [Core · short answer]

Why is 'furniture' uncountable when we can count chairs and tables?

Q06 [Applied · conceptual]

A learner says: 'Ideas are not physical, so idea must be uncountable.' Explain the mistake with two examples.

Q07 [Advanced · investigation]

Look up 'paper' and 'experience' in a learner's dictionary. Report how each is marked and write one sentence for each meaning.

O2: Make the plural of countable nouns, including common irregular plurals.

Q08 [Foundational · spelling]

Write the plurals: cup, class, brush, fox, party.

Q09 [Foundational · spelling]

Write the plurals: key, wife, child, foot, fish.

Q10 [Core · rule]

Why do we write 'boys' but 'babies'?

Q11 [Core · correction]

Correct the plurals: three childs, two mans, many persons in the queue (everyday style), five foots.

Q12 [Applied · pronunciation]

Sort the plurals by how the ending sounds (/s/, /z/ or extra syllable /z/): cups, dogs, boxes, books, days, watches.

Q13 [Applied · error analysis]

A student writes 'roofs' and her friend says it should be 'rooves' because of 'knife knives'. Who is right, and what should they do with new -f words?

Q14 [Advanced · writing]

Write five sentences, each using a different plural rule from the lesson (add -s, add -es, -ies, -ves, irregular). Underline the plural.

O3: Choose the right partner words: a / an, singular or plural verbs, many / much, a few / a little, a lot of, some.

Q15 [Foundational · gap fill]

a or an? ___ egg, ___ book, ___ hour, ___ university.

Q16 [Foundational · gap fill]

much or many? How ___ students? How ___ milk? How ___ bananas? How ___ money?

Q17 [Core · gap fill]

is or are? The news ___ good. The people ___ friendly. My luggage ___ heavy. These chairs ___ new.

Q18 [Core · gap fill]

a few or a little? I have ___ questions. Add ___ water. We need ___ eggs. There is ___ time left.

Q19 [Applied · rewrite]

Make these sound more natural in everyday English: 'We have much rice.' 'She has much experience.'

Q20 [Applied · dialogue]

Complete the shop dialogue with how many / how much / some / any: A: ___ eggs would you like? B: Twelve. And do you have ___ bread? A: Yes, ___ bread is fresh today. B: ___ is it?

Q21 [Advanced · explanation]

Explain, with examples, why 'a lot of' and 'some' are useful for learners.

O4: Count uncountable things with unit words (a glass of, a piece of), and use nouns that can be both countable and uncountable.

Q22 [Foundational · matching]

Match the unit to the noun: a loaf of / a glass of / a bag of / a piece of — rice, advice, bread, water.

Q23 [Foundational · correction]

Correct: two glasses of waters; three piece of furnitures.

Q24 [Core · meaning]

Explain the difference: (a) I don't eat chicken. (b) We saw a chicken in the garden.

Q25 [Core · meaning]

Explain the difference: (a) I don't have much time. (b) I have called her three times.

Q26 [Applied · rewrite]

Rewrite using a unit word so you can give a number: 'She gave me advice twice.' 'Buy bread for the week (we need 3).'

Q27 [Applied · scenario]

In a cafe a customer says 'Two coffees, please.' A learner says this is wrong because coffee is uncountable. Explain who is right.

Q28 [Advanced · long answer]

Write a short paragraph (60-80 words) about your last trip to a market. Use at least four unit words, two nouns that can be both, and correct partner words.

Assignment 1: my kitchen inventory (individual)

Make an inventory of food and objects in your kitchen (or an imagined one) with at least 12 items.

1. Write each item with the correct quantity expression: plural countable nouns with numbers (three cups), uncountable nouns with unit words (a bag of flour) (O2, O4).
2. Mark each noun C or U and check two of them in a dictionary (O1).
3. Write four questions and answers about the inventory using How many / How much, a few / a little and some / any (O3).

Assignment 2: fix the shop sign (pair work)

A shop has put up a sign full of errors: 'NEW FURNITURES! FREE ADVICES! 3 BREAD FOR $5! MUCH SPECIAL OFFERS! ASK FOR INFORMATIONS!'

1. Find and correct every error, explaining the rule for each (O1, O3, O4).
2. Design a corrected sign (text only is fine) that uses at least two unit words and one irregular plural (O2, O4).