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**关于台词的备注:**

请注意这不是广播节目的逐字稿件。本文稿可能没有体现录制、编辑过程中对节目做出的改变。

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**More Uncountable Nouns 不可数名词**

**Feifei:** 大家好，欢迎收听《你问我答》节目。

**Rob:** You're Feifei. And I'm Rob.

**Feifei:** Hi Rob. I met a Rob the other day.

**Rob:** Really.

**Feifei:** Yes, and the guy who works at my local shop is also called Rob.

**Rob:** 3 Robs! There are lots of Robs in the World actually. And we're all countable noun!

**Feifei:** Really! Rob 是一个可数名词，因为我们可以数的清楚到底有几个 Rob. So I suppose we're going to have to talk about countable nouns again?

**Rob:** Relax Feifei, not this time. This week's question is about the opposite: uncountable nouns. Let's read this email from Chun Shan Wan.

**Insert**

*Hello, I'm from Hong Kong and I'm a loyal fan of [bbcukchina.com](http://bbcukchina.com).*

*Sometimes I hear people say, "I've a good news for you." Is the sentence grammatically incorrect? I know "news" is an uncountable noun so you shouldn't use "a" in front of it, but I also know that some uncountable nouns can be used countably and vice versa. For example: time is uncountable but we can say "we have a GOOD time" because "time" is a countable noun referring to a more particular meaning. Thanks, Chun Shan.*

**Feifei:** Chunshan 提的这个问题是有些不可数名词是不是有时也能当做可数名词使用? So Rob, can nouns be both types?

**Rob:** Not exactly. Chunshan points out that the word *time* is an uncountable noun. This is because time is endless and impossible to count. But when you say a good time, the word has a different meaning. It means a particular occasion which is countable.

**Feifei:** 单词 **time** 是不可数名词，不过我们可以说 **a good time**，这里单词 **time** 指一个特殊的时刻、场合，所以就变成了可数名词。

**Rob:** **Now just a reminder: a countable noun is a person, place or thing that can be counted.**

**Feifei:** 像 **a dog or a cat** 这些都是可数名词。

**Rob:** **Yes and we have to use the indefinite article 'a' or 'an' before the word, or if there's more than one we specify the number and add 's' to the end of the word. Such as, there are three cars. An uncountable noun is the name of something that can't be counted: they can't be seen as separate objects.**

**Feifei:** 像 **water or sand** 这些都是不可数名词。

**Rob:** **Good so far. But *time*, is abstract and can be used in a countable or uncountable context depending on how it's being described. So for example:**

### Insert

*Don't hurry, there's plenty of time.*

**Rob:** This is a general meaning about time so it is uncountable. But if we say:

### Insert

*There was a time when we all used to go on holiday together.*

**Rob:** Then in this context, time means an occasion: a particular time when we all used to go on holiday together.

**Feifei:** 如果一个不可数名词被给予了一个特殊的意义，那么通常这个不可数名词就变成了可数名词。I'm with you so far. Can we have another example?

**Rob:** OK. Let's use the noun *experience*. Here's a general uncountable meaning:

### Insert

*We need someone for the job who's got plenty of experience.*

**Rob:** The experience here is difficult to quantify. And here's an example of using the word with a different and particular meaning:

### Insert

*Going back to visit my old school was a strange experience.*

**Feifei:** 上面这个例子中，单词 **experience** 特指了一个奇怪的经历 **it was a strange experience**，所以这里就变成了可数名词。OK, let's talk about the example in today's question, the uncountable noun **news** 新闻。

**Rob:** News can't be counted. Even if we say...



## Insert

*I've got some good news for you.*

**Feifei:** 我有一些好消息告诉你 *some good news*, 这里 *news* 是不可数名词。So when is *news* countable?

**Rob:** When we specify how much news and we say:

## Insert

*I've got a piece of good news that you might like to hear!*

**Rob:** A piece of. That is a quantity of news.

**Feifei:** 一条好消息 *a piece of good news* 这里 *news* 是可数名词, 特指是一条好消息。So we can't say 'a good news'?

**Rob:** No. We usually have to add something about the noun to make it countable. You could say for example, a good news story. I think we should turn some other uncountable nouns into countable ones.

**Feifei:** Really – are we going to do some magic?!

**Rob:** Not really. Just read these out and we'll hear their countable versions:

**Feifei:** Chewing gum 口香糖。

## Insert

*A piece of chewing gum*

**Feifei:** Thunder 雷。

## Insert

*A clap of thunder.*

**Feifei:** Luck 运气。

## Insert

*A stroke of luck*

**Rob:** Sometimes we use a different word to make the uncountable noun, countable.

**Feifei:** Such as work 工作。

**Rob:** That becomes, a job.

**Feifei:** And knowledge 知识。



**Rob:** Knowledge is endless but a fact is a piece of knowledge so that's countable.

**Feifei:** A fact 一个事实是可数名词。Anymore?

**Rob:** Plenty but you'll have to look out for them in books and on the internet.

**Feifei:** Be more countable Rob!

**Rob:** OK, on the BBC Learning English website. And if you have a question about the English language please email us at [questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:questions.chinaelt@bbc.co.uk)

**Feifei:** 别忘了把你学习中遇到的难题发送给我们。谢谢 Chunshan 给我们发来的问题。

**Rob:** OK Feifei, have you had a good time on this week's programme?

**Feifei:** Of course. I can always 'count on you' for a good time.

**Rob:** As I said, Rob is a countable noun!

*(MUCH HYSTERICAL LAUGHING)*

**Both:** Bye!