Types of Noun
- count: book, egg, cat, house, ...
- noncount: milk, rice, peace, happiness, ...

Non count nouns are sometimes not logical:
- furniture, lighting, research are noncount
- these tend to be count in Singapore

Changes in meaning
- Noncount often refer to the material.
  This is made of stone.
  He threw a stone.

  I ate egg.
  I ate an egg.

Variable nouns
- In British English (but not American), some noncount nouns can be used as plurals
  Chelsea are winning the League.
  The government are trying to fix this.

Count Nouns
- singular count nouns must have a determiner
- many plural nouns must also have a determiner
  * I have book.
  * Cat is outside.
  * I broke legs

Determiners
- articles: a, an, the
- demonstratives: this, that, these, those
- possessive pronouns: my, his, her, our ...
Only one determiner allowed

* I like this your book.
* The my article is finished.

Sometimes a pre-determiner is allowed:
   I read all her books.
   I like both these shirts.

Partitives

• *piece, item, …
• used to count noncount nouns

   an item of information
   a piece of research

Partitives + count nouns

• used to refer to part of the item

   a piece of apple = one slice
   a piece of furniture = (maybe one leg?)

Practice: Identify the error

* I wrote a piece of article.
* I like these furnitures.
* I bought newspaper.
* I have read that your book.
* Those researches are fascinating.

Inflections on Count Nouns

• plural: books, cats, chairs …
• possessive: David’s, my uncle’s …

Possessives occur with:

• people:
  David’s hair
  my mother’s birthday
• times:
  next week’s class
  Thursday’s meeting

  * the house’s roof
/s/ or /z/?

cats
dogs
goats
lambs
ducks
fans
sheds

/iz/ after sibilants

• sibilants = /s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/
• SgE has /iz/
  buses /ˈbʌsɪz/
mazes /ˈmeɪzɪz/
fishes /ˈfɪʃɪz/
catches /ˈkeɪtʃɪz/
brides /ˈbrɪdʒɪz/

summary: -s suffix occurrence

• occurs on nouns as
  – plural: books, tables, horses
  – possessive: my aunt’s, David’s, my niece’s
  – contraction of is: she’s
• occurs on verbs as
  – 3rd person singular present:
    she wants, he goes, Fred loses

pronunciation of -s suffix

• /s/ after non-sibilant voiceless sound
• /z/ after non-sibilant voiced sound
• /iz/ after sibilant
  cats /kæts/
dogs /dɒgz/
horses /ˈhɔːrzs/
• note: vowels are voiced
  cows /kɔʊz/

only affects -s as a suffix

• final 's' is often not a suffix
  class /klɑːs/
mess /mes/
this /ðɪs/

Reading

• pronunciation of –s: SoE 140-141
• inflections on nouns: GoE 11
• count/noncount nouns: GoE 56-57
• partitives: GoE 57
• determiners: GoE 80