**Fish and Fruit: Count or Non-count**

**Fish** can be a singular count noun, and its usual plural is also **fish**. **Fruit** as a singular count noun has the plural of **fruits**. For example:

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| Bob and I went fishing, and we caught 17 fish. |
| There are four or five fish swimming around in my fish tank. |
| On the tropical island, there are wonderful fruits growing all over.  |
| You should eat three different fruits per day.  |

However, both **fish** and **fruit** more commonly appear as non-count nouns, which do not have plurals. For example, you would say:

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| I had some fish and a salad for dinner.  |
| He eats a lot of meat, but he doesn't eat much fish.  |
| Fruit is very good for you, and vegetables are too.  |
| There isn't much fresh fruit available at this time of year. |

It is normal in conversation to use **fruit** as a non-count noun. **Fruits** used in sentences like these would sound strange.

When do you use the plural count noun **fruits**? You use **fruits** to refer to different species or kinds of fruit. So at a grocery store you might see a sign reading:

“FRUITS AND VEGETABLES”.

Note: “vegetable” is *always* a count noun.

Is **fishes** a plural of fish? Yes, it is, but an infrequently used plural. You can use **fishes** to refer to different species of fish, particularly in a scientific context:

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| Baxter is going to present his research on "Fishes of the North Atlantic" at the biologists' conference. |
| Several fishes in the region have become extinct.  |

So, both **fishes** and **fruits** are plurals, but not the most common ones. They both are used to refer to species, but not used so commonly in everyday conversations.

There are other non-count words that act this way, often they are also food related:

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| The deli has a wide selection of meats. |
| Corner Bakery has 3 different soups each day.It’s well known that bears like honey. It’s one of their favorite foods. |

(From PearsonLongman.com)