



MY FAVORITE THINGS by Rodgers & Hammerstein
Performed by Julie Andrews

A lesson on count and noncount nouns (Chapter 7)

Notes for the Teacher

1. The Song

Do a search on the Internet to find the song “My Favorite Things” by Rodgers & Hammerstein. When you search, be sure to include the title and the name of the artist.

2. Song background

You are going to hear a song from a popular musical from 1965 called *The Sound of Music*. The story is about a young woman named Maria who is the teacher of seven Austrian children. Maria and the children must escape Austria when the German Nazis become powerful.

In this song, Maria teaches the children about a way to feel better when they are sad. She tells them that when she is sad, she thinks about happy things.

3. Grammar background

This song has a lot of count nouns and noncount nouns. Remind your students that **count nouns** can be made plural with **-s**, **-es**, or an irregular form. Explain that count nouns refer to individual persons or things. For instance, *friend* and *book* are count nouns. We can make these nouns plural: *friends* and *books*. Ask volunteers to give one examples of a count noun and make it plural.

Noncount nouns cannot be made plural. You may want to tell your students that one way to tell a noncount noun is if any part of it equals the whole. For instance, any piece of cheese is still cheese.

You can find more information about count and noncount nouns in Chapter 7 of your book.



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4. Vocabulary

There are a lot of new vocabulary words in this song! Students don't have to learn them all. Instead, they will use them to learn about count and noncount nouns.

- **raindrop:** a single drop of rain
- **rose:** a common sweet-smelling flower
- **whisker:** one of the long stiff hairs that grow near the mouth of a cat, mouse, etc.
- **kitten:** a baby cat
- **kettle:** a metal pot used to boil water
- **woolen:** made of wool, the soft thick hair of a sheep
- **mitten:** a type of glove that does not have individual fingers
- **cream:** the thickest part of milk
- **pony:** a baby horse
- **bell:** a metal object that make a ringing sound when you hit or shake it
- **doorbell:** a button by the door of a house that you press to make a sound to let people inside know you are there
- **sleigh:** a large vehicle usually pulled by horses for travelling on snow
- **streudel** and **schnitzel:** Two kinds of Austrian food. *Streudel* is pieces of apples in sauce. *Schnitzel* is meat with a bread coating.
- **geese:** the irregular plural form of *goose*. A goose is a common water bird, like a duck but larger.
- **sash:** a long piece of cloth that you wear around your waist
- **snowflake:** a small soft white piece of frozen water that falls as snow



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Answer Key for the Count/Noncount chart on the Student Worksheet:

Count nouns	Noncount nouns
raindrops	string
roses	cream
whiskers	streudel
kittens	schnitzel
kettles	
mittens	
packages	
ponies	
noodles	
geese	
doorbells	
sleigh bells	
wings	
things	
dog	
girls	
dresses	
sashes	
bee	
snowflakes	
nose	
eyelashes	
winters	
springs	
moon	



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Student Worksheet

While you listen

1. This song has a lot of new vocabulary. First, listen to the song one time. Try to hear a few of the favorite things that the singer mentions.
2. Play the song again. When you hear a noun, put it in one of the columns. You may need to listen to the song a few more times. Try not to look back at the vocabulary list.

Count nouns	Noncount nouns





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After you listen

1. Things to think about and discuss

In pairs, small groups, or as a whole class, share your answers to these questions.

- Do you like all of the things that are mentioned in this song? What are your own favorite things? Think of at least three things.
- Do you think it might make you feel better if you think of your favorite things when you are feeling sad? What do you usually do when you are feeling sad?

2. Writing

Choose one of the following activities:

1. What do you do when you're feeling unhappy? Write a paragraph about ways that you cheer yourself up (in other words, make yourself feel happier).
2. Write a little poem or song about your own favorite things. You can even try to make it rhyme!