

Time as both Countable and Uncountable

Time #1 – “Clock Time” – Uncountable.

Time is represented on a clock. There are numbers on a clock, and we can look at **time** passing. A clock shows us hours and minutes, and we can count these. However, when the word **time** is used in this way, we cannot count it and there is no plural form. We can count elements of **time**, such as hours, minutes, days, weeks, months, and years, but we cannot count the word **time** itself. The examples below show this use of **time**:

- My trip to Boston took five **hours**. *Not, My trip to Boston took five ~~times~~.*
- It took an extra thirty **minutes** to get home yesterday.
- I have a little free **time** today.
- If you want to see everything, you'll need a lot of **time**.
- I don't have too much **time** these days.

Time #2 – “Experience Time” – Countable.

Time can be countable when we use the word to mean experience. Just as you can count experiences, you can count the **times** you have done something. The examples below show this use of **time**:

- I have been there many **times**.
- The last **time** I went there was over the summer.
- Yalcin has been sailing with me a few **times**.
- We have met two **times** before.

So when **time** means experience, then we can count it. Otherwise, **time** is uncountable. I hope you had a great **time** (experience) in Disneyland. If you have available **time** (clock time), let's visit Disneyland together.