HOW TO COUNT UNCOUNTABLE: ABSTRACT NOUNS

When counting uncountable nouns, we can go the easy way by simply saying “a lot of” or “little” but are there any other possibilities? Yes, of course!

In English, there is a handful of rather general countable words that typically combine with uncountable, abstract nouns such as: an act, a bit, a fit, a grain, an item, a piece, a shred, etc. However, they cannot combine freely so the golden rule is to learn them as one block!

THE MEDIA

Nowadays, the items of news broadcasted provide only a few pieces of objective information. Some people go as far as to say that there isn’t a grain of truth in what is presented to us. My father sometimes gets sudden fits of anger just from watching the latest news. On the other hand, there isn’t a shred of evidence that this is actually true. With a bit of luck, you may befriend a news anchor and find out some off-the-record information for yourself.

VOCABULARY BUILDING

- broadcasted - vysílaný
- grain - zrnko
- fit - záchvat
- On the other hand - na druhou stranu
- shred - kousek, cucek
- befriend - spřátelit se s
- anchor (also anchorman/anchorwoman) - moderátor zpráv

QUIZ: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Fill in the following words: shred, piece, item, fit, or bit in the correct form.

1. There was an ____________ on the radio about women engineers.
2. There is not one ____________ of evidence in this case.
3. In a sudden ____________ of anger, he snatched the book from her hand.
4. With a ____________ of luck, we’ll be there on time.
5. The presentation included several interesting ____________ of information.

KEY: 1. item, 2. shred, 3. fit, 4. bit, 5. pieces