ucalyou can
attach a number to it.

e.g., two jobs, three courses, one program

Nothing at all: if the noun has a number attached or is plural by itself.

e.g., students are required to register by June 1. Glaciers flow under the pressure of their own mass. Interest rates are falling.

A/AN: if the noun is single and referring to one of many.

for the first time
e.g., I bought a CD and an I-Pod today. Do you know a good restaurant?

in general
e.g., it is good for a student to have a job.

Uncountable
If a noun is uncountable, you cannot attach a number to it. An uncountable noun is likely one of the following:

an abstraction
e.g., honesty, health, intelligence, knowledge, poverty

an area of study or activity
e.g., agriculture, business, cooking, economics, hockey

a substance that can be counted only by unit of measure or mass
e.g., water, milk, oil, dirt, beef, flour

a collection
e.g., clothing, furniture, hardware, information, luggage, money

a natural or physical phenomenon
e.g., daylight, cold, gravity, electricity

THE: if the noun refers to something specific or unique. It is specific or unique likely for the following reasons:

it is the only one in a given environment

With a specific noun, you cannot use the possessive form and demonstrative pronouns (this, that, these, those) instead of THE:

possessives
e.g., John's job, my courses, their objections

demonstratives (this, that, these those)
e.g., this job, that star, those courses, these reasons

Tricky Nouns!
Some nouns can be countable or not, depending on whether they are referring to something abstract or something specific.
Do not use an article with nouns that refer to all of its type or a concept in general.
e.g., crime doesn't pay. Several crimes were reported.

Nothing at all: if the noun refers to a thing or activity in general.

e.g., Lacrosse is Canada's national sport. Work experience is important. Homelessness is a problem in Western society. I want to study history. Do you have furniture for your apartment?