Some exercises require the use of a dictionary.

1 Underline the best option.

a I'm afraid that the news *is / are* not very encouraging.
b It took Helen a while to get used to her new *surrounding / surroundings*.
c Athletics *is / are* a popular pastime in many countries.
d Do you fancy a game of *card / cards*?
e The cattle *has / have* got through the fence by the main road.
f Mumps *is / are* a serious illness for many older people.
g What do you think of my new *trouser / trousers*?
h The bathroom is on the left at the top of the *stair / stairs*.
i 'Extras' *is / are* the funniest comedy series I have ever seen.
j Local police *is / are* baffled by the disappearance of more than fifty pet dogs.

2 Complete the sentence with a singular or plural form of a word in the list.

custom damage expense glass manner work

a You'll have to declare these items at customs when you land in London.
b The newspapers were not impressed by the _____ of Mr Smith's election.
c The violent storm caused severe _____ throughout the west of the country.
d The school gave Tony the complete _____ of Shakespeare as a prize.
e You can put in a claim for your travel _____ when you come back from the trip.
f People here have the _____ of opening the front door at midnight on New Year's Eve.
g The waiter filled Maria's _____ with sparkling water.
h The injured passenger was awarded _____ of over £1 million.
i As far as I'm concerned, eating and drinking on buses and trains is simply bad _____.
j In this part of the country, factories have closed and many people have no _____.
k Have you seen my _____ anywhere? I can't see a thing!
l For most students, rent is their biggest _____.

3 Complete the sentence with a word from the list.

bunch cloud ~~crowd~~ flash gang item pack piece shower team

a The stars of the film were met outside the cinema by a crowd of fans.
b A sudden _____ of lightening lit the night sky.
c The building crashed to the ground, leaving a _____ of dust.
d A _____ of doctors in south London is carrying out a new study into childhood illnesses.
e One of the soldiers produced a _____ of cards, and they started to play.
f After a heavy _____ of rain, the pitch was slippery.
g Let me give you a _____ of advice. Don't borrow any money from that bank.
h Harry bought a large _____ of grapes from the supermarket.
i The train crash was the first _____ on the late news.
j The bank was raided by a _____ of armed robbers.

4 Use the description to make a compound noun.

a A belt you wear when you sit in the seat of a car. — a seat belt
b A shelf which you put books on. — a _____
c A chemical which softens water. — a _____
d A pot for making coffee. — a _____
e A brush for cleaning teeth. — a _____
f The window of a shop. — a _____
g Climbing in the mountains. — a _____
h Equipment used in the office. — a _____
i Something used for sharpening pencils. — a _____
j A network of computers. — a _____

the arts

5 Add an apostrophe where necessary and underline the word.

Hamlet *by William Shakespeare*

Hamlet's father the King of Denmark has died, and his mother has married his fathers brother, Claudius. Denmark is under threat of invasion by a foreign princes army. Two soldiers on duty on the ramparts of the castle see Hamlets fathers ghost. Later, the ghost speaks to Hamlet and describes his brothers method of murdering him. Hamlet promises to avenge his murder, but pretends to be mad to escape his uncles suspicions. Claudius asks Hamlets friends to find out the reasons for his strange behaviour. Claudius adviser, Polonius, the father of Hamlets girlfriend Ophelia, suggests that his madness is caused by love. Hamlets friends invite a troupe of actors to try to make Hamlet less unhappy. Hamlet asks them to put on a play he has written in which his fathers murder will be acted. His uncles guilt becomes clear when he stops the play and leaves with his courtiers. Hamlet kills Polonius in error and is sent to England with his friends as part of the kings attempt to kill Hamlet.
What happens next? You'll have to read the play!

GLOSSARY

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

A Choose a page in a magazine, newspaper or book and make a list of any collective nouns, collections or partitives, and compound nouns.

B Choose twenty words from the explanation pages, and look them up in a dictionary. How would you translate them into your language?

*Need more practice? Go to the **Review** on page 208*