

Nouns – Articles

10



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



There are four kinds of nouns: **abstract** (love, beauty, etc.), **common** (chair, table, etc.), **collective** (class, audience, family, government, staff, team, etc.), and **proper** (Ann, Ted, Spain, etc.).

Gender

Masculine = men, boys, animals when we know their sex (he)

Feminine = women, girls, ships, animals when we know their sex (she)

Neuter = things, babies / animals when we don't know their sex (it)

Most personal nouns have the same form whether male or female (doctor, teacher, etc.).

Some nouns have different forms, though. Some of these are:

actor – actress	father – mother	landlord – landlady	son – daughter
boy – girl	gentleman – lady	lord – lady	uncle – aunt
(bride)groom – bride	grandfather – grandmother	monk – nun	waiter – waitress
brother – sister	hero – heroine	nephew – niece	widower – widow
duke – duchess	husband – wife	policeman – policewoman	
emperor – empress	king – queen	prince – princess	

1 Write (M) for male, (F) for female or (M/F).

1 doctor	M/F	7 pilot	.....	13 child	.....	19 landlord	.....
2 nurse	.....	8 waiter	.....	14 lord	.....	20 widow	.....
3 teacher	.....	9 wife	.....	15 queen	.....	21 grandfather	.....
4 typist	.....	10 driver	.....	16 heroine	.....	22 policeman	.....
5 student	.....	11 emperor	.....	17 scientist	.....	23 engineer	.....
6 bride	.....	12 king	.....	18 prince	.....	24 musician	.....

2 Write the masculine or feminine of the following people if there is a difference.

1 husband	wife	6 nephew	.....	11 doctor	.....
2 politician	.....	7 policeman	.....	12 monk	.....
3 brother	.....	8 lawyer	.....	13 duke	.....
4 uncle	.....	9 waiter	.....	14 clerk	.....
5 student	.....	10 actor	.....	15 shop assistant	.....

The Plural of Nouns

Nouns are made plural by adding:

-s to the noun. (*pen – pens, etc.*)

-es to nouns ending in **-s, -ss, -x, -ch, -sh**.
(*bus – buses, glass – glasses, box – boxes, torch – torches, bush – bushes, etc.*)

-ies to nouns ending in **consonant + y**.
(*baby – babies, lady – ladies, etc.*)

-s to nouns ending in **vowel + y**.
(*boy – boys, day – days, etc.*)

-es to nouns ending in **-o** (*tomato – tomatoes*)

-s to nouns ending in: **vowel + o** (*radio – radios*), **double o** (*zoo – zoos*), **abbreviations** (*photo – photos*) and **musical instruments** (*piano – pianos*)

Some nouns ending in **-o** can take either **-es** or **-s** (*buffalo, mosquito, volcano, etc.*).

-ves to some nouns ending in **-f / -fe**. (*leaf – leaves*)
(but: *chiefs, roofs, cliffs, handkerchiefs, safes, etc.*)

Compound Nouns form their plural by adding **-s / -es**:

to the **second noun** if the compound consists of **two nouns**. *girlfriend – girlfriends*

to the **noun** if the compound consists of an **adjective and a noun**.
frying pan – frying pans

to the **first noun** if the compound consists of **two nouns connected with a preposition**.

sister-in-law – sisters-in-law

at the **end of the compound** if this is not made up of any nouns. *breakdown – breakdowns*

Irregular Plurals

- man – **men** • woman – **women** • foot – **feet** • tooth – **teeth** • louse – **lice** • mouse – **mice**
- child – **children** • goose – **geese** • sheep – **sheep** • deer – **deer** • fish – **fish** • trout – **trout**

3

Write the plural of the following nouns:

1 city	 <i>cities</i>	8 tray	.....	15 potato	.....
2 brother-in-law	.....	9 roof	.....	16 dining room	.....
3 headline	.....	10 goose	.....		.....
4 photo	.....	11 trout	.....	17 water bottle	.....
5 stepfather	.....	12 mouse	.....		.....
6 couch	.....	13 tooth	.....	18 bus driver	.....
7 dish	.....	14 knife	.....		.....

Singular or Plural verbs

Some nouns take only a plural verb. These are nouns which have a plural meaning such as *clothes, people, police, stairs, etc.* or objects which consist of two parts such as *trousers, pyjamas, binoculars, scissors, shoes, shorts, gloves, glasses, socks, etc.* We do not use *a/an* or a number with these words. We use the phrase **pair of ...** instead.

Where **are** your **earrings**? I was given a **pair of** **earrings**.

Some nouns take only a singular verb. These are: mass nouns (*bread, tea, milk, etc.*), school subjects (*Maths, Physics, History, etc.*), games / diseases (*football, billiards, mumps, etc.*), nouns such as *advice, weather, luggage, furniture, money, news, knowledge, work, etc.*

Group nouns refer to a group of people. These nouns can take either a singular or a plural verb depending on whether we see the group as a whole or as individuals. Such group nouns are: *audience, class, club, committee, company, council, crew, family, government, press, public, staff, team, etc.* The **team was** the best in the country. (the team as a group)
The **team were** all given medals. (each member separately as individuals)

4 Fill in: *is* or *are*.

- 1 Where *are* your trousers?
- 2 Could you tell me where the scissors
- 3 Money easy to spend but difficult to save.
- 4 Gloves worn in cold weather.
- 5 Jake's ideas amazing!
- 6 This bread not fresh.
- 7 Your pyjamas on the bed.
- 8 My luggage too heavy to carry.
- 9 My advice to you to get some rest.
- 10 Physics my favourite subject.
- 11 Measles a common illness.
- 12 These trousers too big for me.
- 13 The weather wonderful today.
- 14 Jo's boots made of leather.
- 15 Darts a popular game in England.
- 16 This work too hard for me.

Some nouns have a different meaning in plural.

Singular

The needle of a **compass** always points north.
It is an English **custom** to celebrate the Queen's birthday.
She has a lot of **experience** working with children.

Would you like a **glass** of milk?
She has got long, blonde **hair**.
They were shocked at the **scale** of the disaster.
This door is made of **wood**.
He goes to **work** every day except Sunday.

Plural

You can draw perfect circles with **compasses**.
When he got off the plane, his bag was searched at **customs**.
The main character in the book had been through a lot of bad **experiences**.
He can't see very well without his **glasses**.
There are two **hairs** in this soup!
She weighed herself on the **scales**.
The boy got lost in the **woods**.
Picasso's **works** are really fascinating.

5 Complete the sentences using the nouns in the *singular* or *plural* form.

1 hair

- a Mrs Williams has short, red *hair*
- b The dog has left white all over the sofa.

2 wood

- a The chair is made of
- b They went for a walk in the after lunch.

3 experience

- a She had a lot of exciting while living abroad.
- b I don't think he has any for the job.

4 scale

- a Can you put that chicken on the for me, please?
- b We don't know the true of the problem yet.

5 compass

- a They used a to find where they were.
- b The teacher told the students to use their to draw some circles.

6 work

- a Jo started when he was sixteen.
- b The museum has by Matisse as well as other painters.

7 glass

- a I need a new pair of
- b Can you bring me a of water, please?

8 custom

- a My plane landed an hour ago but the line for was very long.
- b In Japan it is a to take a gift when you visit someone.

Countable – Uncountable Nouns

Nouns can be **countable** (those that can be counted *a bag, an orange, some books, etc.*) or **uncountable** (those that can't be counted *flour, sugar, etc.*). Uncountable nouns take a singular verb. They are not used with *a / an*. **Some, any, no, much**, etc. can be used with them.

I need some help. (NOT: ~~a~~ help) *There isn't much sugar left.*

The most common uncountable nouns are: *accommodation, advice, behaviour, bread, business, education, evidence, food, fruit, furniture, gold, hair, happiness, help, homework, housework, information, jewellery, knowledge, luck, luggage, meat, money, music, news, rubbish, shopping, soap, spaghetti, traffic, trouble, water, weather, work, etc.*

Many uncountable nouns can be made countable with the following phrases of quantity:

a **piece** of cake / information / advice / furniture; a **glass / bottle** of water / soda; a **jar** of jam; a **tin** of fish; / a **box** of chocolates; a **packet** of biscuits / tea; a **slice / loaf** of bread; a **pot** of yoghurt; a **pot / cup** of tea; a **kilo / pound** of meat; a **tube** of toothpaste; a **bar** of chocolate / soap; a **bit / piece** of chalk; an **ice cube**; a **lump** of sugar; a **sheet** of paper; a **bag** of flour; a **pair** of trousers; a **game** of soccer; a(n) **item / piece** of news; a **drop / bottle** of oil; a **can** of cola; a **carton** of milk; a **block** of wood, etc.

6 Write a, an, or some.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 <i>some</i> tea | 6 balls | 11 apricot | 16 food |
| 2 bird | 7 soap | 12 luggage | 17 elephant |
| 3 pens | 8 bridge | 13 boy | 18 furniture |
| 4 bread | 9 water | 14 fruit | 19 money |
| 5 housework | 10 news | 15 information | 20 traffic |

7 Wendy is going to the supermarket to buy the items in the pictures below. Write out her shopping list.



Shopping list

a bag of flour

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

8 Fill in the gaps with the words from the list in the correct form.

packet bottle cup bag carton kilo jar tin

Freemont Supermarket
Special Offers!

Three 1) kilos
of potatoes for the price of two!

Buy a 2) of jam
and get a second one for free!

Buy a 3) of
juice at half price!

Six 4)
of beans for the price of four!

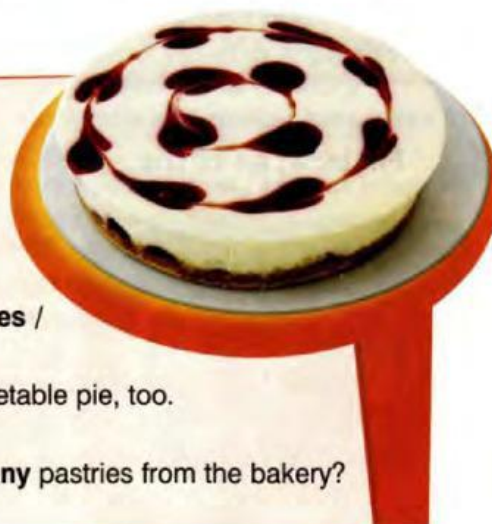
Five 5)
of mineral water. Get one free!

Buy two 6)
of tea and get a free
7) of sugar!

Enjoy a 8)
of fresh coffee as you shop!

9 Underline the correct item.

- A: Let's make a list of what we need for Beth's party.
B: Yes, write down six 1) bottles / cartons of diet soda.
A: OK. We also need ten 2) packets / jars of crisps.
B: Don't forget the biscuits!
A: What about sandwiches?
B: Oh, we need a 3) loaf / lump of bread and twenty 4) loaves /
slices of cheese.
A: We should get 5) a / some broccoli and celery for the vegetable pie, too.
B: What else do we need to buy?
A: How about 6) a / some large cheesecake and 7) some / any pastries from the bakery?
B: Great idea! OK, I think that should be enough.



10 Fill in a, an, or some.

- 1 A: Mum, is there anything to eat?
B: I believe there's some lasagne left in
the fridge.
- 2 A: I need information for my
History project.
B: Why don't you look on the internet?
- 3 A: Do we have any fruit left?
B: Yes, there's apple on the
kitchen table.
- 4 A: Do you need anything from the supermarket?
B: Just eggs. I'm going to bake
..... cake.
- 5 A: Would you like cup of tea?
B: No thanks. I just had glass of
juice.
- 6 A: Can I have ice cream with my
apple pie?
B: Of course you can.
- 7 A: I had pancakes with strawberries
for breakfast.
B: Really? I had omelette.
- 8 A: That was delicious meal!
B: I agree. She is amazing cook.