



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



- **Nouns are:** **abstract** (art, belief, etc), **concrete** (artist, believer, etc), **proper** (Jill, Peter, Portugal, etc), **collective** (group, crowd, team, flock, herd, family, etc) and **common** (woman, dog, etc).
- **There are three genders of nouns:** **masculine** (**He** – men and boys, animals when we know their sex), **feminine** (**She** – women and girls, countries, ships and vehicles when regarded with affection or respect, animals when we know their sex) and **neutral** (**It** – things, babies and animals when we don't know their sex).
- **Most nouns describing people have the same form whether they are male or female.** *teacher, student, etc.* **Some nouns have different forms, though.** *actor – actress, groom – bride, duke – duchess, emperor – empress, heir – heiress, hero – heroine, host – hostess, prince – princess, waiter – waitress, widower – widow, policeman – policewoman, lord – lady, etc.*

The Plural of Nouns

Nouns are made plural by adding:

- **-s to the noun.** (*chair – chairs*)
- **-es to nouns ending in -s, -ss, -x, -ch, -sh or -z.** (*bus – buses, glass – glasses, fox – foxes, torch – torches, brush – brushes, buzz – buzzes*)
- **-ies to nouns ending in consonant + y** (*lady – ladies*) but **-s to nouns ending in vowel + y** (*day – days*).
- **-es to nouns ending in consonant + o** (*potato – potatoes*)
- **-s to nouns ending in vowel + o** (*studio – studios*), **double o** (*zoo – zoos*), **abbreviations** (*photograph / photo – photos, kilos, memos*), **musical instruments** (*piano – pianos*) and **proper nouns** (*Eskimo – Eskimos*). **Some nouns ending in -o can take either -es or -s.** These are: *buffaloes / buffalos, mosquitoes / mosquitos, volcanoes / volcanos, zeroes / zeros, flamingoes / flamingos, tornadoes / tornados, etc.*
- **-ves to some nouns ending in -f/-fe.** (*calf – calves, half – halves, knife – knives, leaf – leaves, life – lives, self – selves, thief – thieves, wolf – wolves*) (**BUT** *belief – beliefs, chief – chiefs, cliff – cliffs, handkerchief – handkerchiefs, hoof – hoofs/hoooves, roof – roofs, safe – safes, giraffe – giraffes*)
- **Some nouns of Greek or Latin origin form their plural by adding Greek or Latin suffixes.** *basis – bases, crisis – crises, terminus – termini, criterion – criteria, phenomenon – phenomena, stimulus – stimuli, datum – data, medium – media, etc.*

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

- **to the second noun** if the compound consists of two nouns. *ball game – ball games*
- **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 by a preposition or to the noun if the compound has only one noun. *mother-in-law – mothers-in-law, passer-by – passers-by*
- **at the end of the compound** if it does not include any nouns. *letdown – letdowns*

- Irregular Plurals:** man – **men**, woman – **women**, foot – **feet**, tooth – **teeth**, goose – **geese**, louse – **lice**, mouse – **mice**, sheep – **sheep**, deer – **deer**, fish – **fish**, trout – **trout**, ox – **oxen**, child – **children**, salmon – **salmon**, spacecraft – **spacecraft**, aircraft – **aircraft**, hovercraft – **hovercraft**, means – **means**, species – **species**

1 Write the plural of the following nouns.

1 nanny	..nannies..	11 bush	.....	21 aircraft	.....
2 father-in-law	.....	12 pen-friend	.....	22 watch	.....
3 headache	.....	13 video	.....	23 crisis	.....
4 dictionary	.....	14 passer-by	.....	24 bay	.....
5 zoo-keeper	.....	15 violin	.....	25 flamingo	.....
6 phone	.....	16 wife	.....	26 taxi driver	.....
7 hoof	.....	17 volcano	.....	27 potato	.....
8 radio	.....	18 mouse	.....	28 safe	.....
9 train robbery	.....	19 godfather	.....	29 onlooker	.....
10 painkiller	.....	20 wish	.....	30 walking stick	.....

2 Write the plural of the nouns in brackets.

London Zoo

London Zoo has been open to the public since 1847. Today, it holds around 755 1) species (**species**) of animals, making it one of the biggest 2) (**zoo**) in Britain. Although London Zoo is not home to many large animals such as 3) (**rhino**) or 4) (**elephant**), there is still a lot to see! Our aquarium contains thousands of colourful 5) (**fish**) from around the world and the amazing Gorilla Kingdom holds a number of 6) (**gorilla**)! Another popular section of the zoo is Into Africa. Here you can see a number of Africa's wild 7) (**beast**) including 8) (**zebra**) and 9) (**giraffe**). Also, don't miss the chance to take fantastic 10) (**photo**) at Butterfly Paradise; one of the biggest collections of 11) (**butterfly**) in London. So, for the perfect day out for both 12) (**adult**) and 13) (**child**), come and visit London Zoo!



3 Complete each pair below by adding the male or female equivalent.

1 actor	..actress..	6 host	.....	11	.....	bride
2	heroine	7 heir	.....	12	lord	.....
3 prince	.....	8 teacher	.....	13	.....	widow
4	doctor	9	empress	14	policeman	.....
5	waitress	10 duke	.....	15	pilot	.....

- 4 Match the items in column A to the ones in column B to make compound nouns. Then, form the plural.

A	B	
1 g ball	a card	1 <i>ball game – ball games</i>
2 fishing	b hole	2
3 run	c pan	3
4 bus	d print	4
5 passer	e room	5
6 key	f away	6
7 foot	g game	7
8 frying	h boat	8
9 dining	i by	9
10 credit	j driver	10

Countable – Uncountable Nouns

Nouns can be **countable** (those that can be counted) *1 book, 2 books, etc.* – or **uncountable** (those that can't be counted) *flour*. Uncountable nouns take a singular verb. *Information is available at the front desk.* They are not used with **a / an**. **Some, any, no, much**, etc. can be used with them. *I need some advice.* (NOT: ~~an advice~~). But we say: *a relief, a pity, a shame, a wonder, a knowledge (of sth), a help* although they are uncountable. *What a pity! It's such a shame!*

The most common **uncountable** nouns are:

- **Mass nouns:** **fluids:** blood, coffee, juice, milk, oil, tea, water, etc., **solids:** bread, butter, china, coal, fish (meaning food), food, fruit, glass, ice, iron, meat, soap, etc., **gases:** air, oxygen, pollution, smoke, smog, steam, etc., **particles:** corn, dust, flour, hair, pepper, rice, salt, sand, sugar, wheat, etc.).
- **Subjects of study:** Chemistry, Economics, History, Literature, Mathematics, Physics, Psychology, etc.
- **Languages:** Japanese, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, etc.
- **Games:** baseball, billiards, chess, football, golf, rugby, hockey, tennis, etc.
- **Diseases:** flu, measles, mumps, etc.
- **Natural phenomena:** darkness, fog, gravity, hail, heat, humidity, lightning, rain (BUT **the rains** = season of continuous rain in tropical countries), snow, sunshine, thunder, weather, wind, etc.
- **Some abstract nouns:** accommodation, advice, anger, applause, assistance, behaviour, business, chaos, countryside, courage, damage, dirt, education, evidence, housework, homework, information, intelligence, knowledge, luck, music, news, peace, progress, seaside, shopping, traffic, trouble, truth, wealth, work, etc.
- **Collective nouns:** baggage, crockery, cutlery, furniture, jewellery, luggage, machinery, money, rubbish, stationery, etc.
- Many **uncountable nouns** can be made **countable** by adding a partitive:
a piece of paper/cake/information/advice/furniture; a glass/bottle of water/lemonade/iced tea; a jar of jam; a sheet of paper; a box of chocolates; a packet of pasta; 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 bag of flour; a pair of trousers; a game of football; a(n) item/piece of news; a drop/bottle of oil; a tin of salmon; a can of cola; a carton of milk; a block of wood; a flash/bolt of lightning; a clap/peal of thunder, etc.
- Some nouns take only a plural verb. These are objects which consist of two parts: **garments** (pyjamas, trousers, etc.), **tools** (scissors, pliers, etc.), **instruments** (binoculars, compasses, spectacles, etc.) or **nouns** such as: arms, ashes, barracks, clothes, congratulations, earnings, (good) looks, outskirts, people, police, premises, riches, stairs, surroundings, wages, 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: army, audience, class, club, committee, company, council, crew, crowd, headquarters, family, jury, 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)
- With expressions of **duration, distance or money** meaning 'a whole amount' we use a singular verb.
Two weeks isn't long to wait. Ten miles is a long way to ride. Ten thousand pounds is too much to spend on house repairs.

Some nouns can be used as countable or uncountable, with a difference in meaning.

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Give me a piece of paper , please! | • The police asked to see his papers . (documents) |
| • The needle of a compass always points North. | • You can draw a perfect circle with compasses . |
| • It is a custom to give presents at birthdays. | • All plane passengers were searched at customs . |
| • She has a lot of experience in teaching. | • We had lots of exciting experiences on our trip. |
| • Would you like a glass of milk? | • He can't see very well without his glasses . (spectacles) |
| • She has got long, blonde hair . (head of hair) | • There are two hairs in your milk! (2 single hairs) |
| • They were shocked at the scale of the disaster. | • She weighed herself on the scales . (weighing machine) |
| • The bowl is made of wood . (the material) | • The girls got lost in the woods . (forest) |
| • He goes to work every day except Sunday. | • Picasso's works are really fascinating. (creations) |
| • There were many people waiting outside. | • All peoples of the world should live in peace. (nations) |
| • Don't go out in the rain without an umbrella. | • In some climates the rains come twice a year. |

5 Write (C) if the noun is countable or (U) if it is uncountable, as in the example.

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|---------|-------|
| 1 child |C..... | 4 fruit | ..... | 7 desk | ..... | 10 oil | ..... |
| 2 Literature | ..... | 5 dirt | ..... | 8 butter | ..... | 11 smog | ..... |
| 3 host | ..... | 6 news | ..... | 9 leaf | ..... | 12 golf | ..... |

6 Suzanne is going into town to buy the items in the pictures below. Write out her shopping list.

1 .. a carton of milk ..

2 ..

3 ..

4 ..

5 ..

6 ..

7 ..

8 ..

- 7 Fill in the gaps with an appropriate noun + *of* to indicate quantity. More than one answer may be possible.

1 a *bolt / flash of* lightning
 2 a chalk
 3 a football
 4 a trousers

5 a sugar
 6 a meat
 7 a thunder
 8 a advice

- 8 Complete the sentences using the nouns in their *singular or plural form*.

1 **hair**

- a Lisa has got short, dark *hair*
 b Keith brushed off the dog *hairs*
 from his jacket.

2 **experience**

- a Anna gained some work
 by helping in her father's shop during the summer.
 b John's trip around Asia was full of memorable

3 **glass**

- a Dan couldn't read the menu because he had forgotten to bring his
 b She offered me a of orange juice.

4 **work**

- a The museum holds over a thousand
 of modern art.
 b Paul travels to by bus every morning.

5 **custom**

- a It is a in Japan to take your shoes off when you enter someone's house.
 b Frank was asked to open his bag at

6 **wood**

- a Pam took her dog for a walk in the
 b This toy is made of

- 9 Make the following uncountable nouns *plural*, as in the example.

1 furniture – two *pieces of furniture*
 2 pasta – two
 3 paper – four
 4 lemonade – three

5 yoghurt – two
 6 oil – three
 7 toothpaste – two
 8 salmon – five

- **A couple of, several, a few, many, a (large, great, good) number of, both**, are followed by a countable noun. **(Too) much, a little, a great/good deal of, a large/small amount/quantity of** are followed by an uncountable noun. **A lot of, lots of, hardly any, some, no, plenty of** are followed by a countable or uncountable noun.

- 10 Underline the expressions which can be used with the nouns, as in the example.

- 1 She has bought a couple of, several, too much, a few, a little, lots of dresses.
 2 She's got a little, a lot of, hardly any, several, a few experience in the clothes business.
 3 He drank two, both, some, several, too much glasses of juice.
 4 She is wearing several, too many, hardly any, too much, no jewellery.
 5 The fire is going out – you'll have to fetch a little, several, a couple of, some, plenty of wood.
 6 I've been shopping and I've got no, a few, a little, hardly any, too many money left.
 7 Steve has already made too much, a little, a few, a couple of, a number of friends.
 8 Flowers need plenty of, a number of, too many, a great deal of, a lot of water.

11 Fill in the gaps with the words from the list and put them in the correct form.

• bar • bottle • jar • loaf • bag • pot • kilo • glass



HALL'S FAMILY GROCER SPECIALS!

Buy three 1) bottles of cola and get a free
 2) of chocolate!
 Three 3) of jam for the price of two!
 Two 4) of bread for the price of one!
 Buy two 5) of flour – get one free!
 Six 6) of yoghurt for the price of four!
 Buy a 7) of cheese – half price!
 Enjoy a free 8) of orange juice as you shop!
 Friendly personal service guaranteed!



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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Your jeans <u>are</u> hanging in the wardrobe.
 2 Where my scissors?
 3 There a lecture on Economics today.
 4 Physics the study of natural laws.
 5 Where my boxing gloves?
 6 This information incorrect!
 7 Her hair beautiful.
 8 Your socks in the drawer.
 9 Her furniture very expensive.
 10 The traffic unusually light today.</p> | <p>11 His luggage extremely heavy.
 12 The news on at 6 o'clock.
 13 Mumps a common illness among young children.
 14 Sugar bad for your teeth.
 15 German difficult to learn.
 16 Chess a popular game.
 17 People starving in many countries.
 18 Happiness the key to good health.
 19 There some flour left.</p> |
|--|--|

13 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

- 1 Every time I go to the beach, sand gets (get) inside my shoes.
- 2 Five miles (be) a long way to walk.
- 3 Milk (be) good for your bones.
- 4 The council (meet) in the town hall every Wednesday.
- 5 Chess (be) his favourite board game.
- 6 Gravity (cause) things to fall towards the ground.
- 7 Greek (be) one of the most difficult languages to learn.
- 8 Music (help) me relax after a long day at work.
- 9 Pepper always (make) me sneeze.
- 10 Those new glasses (look) great on you.
- 11 Chemistry (not/interest) me at all.
- 12 The crockery he designs (cost) a lot of money.