

Grammar – Nouns and Articles

A. Context Listening

A1. Listen to the advertisement and complete the sentences using the places in the box. Use the where necessary.

Alps Andes Atlantic Ocean Greece Lake Garda
New York Rome Sahara Desert

- 1 You can go climbing in the Alps or
- 2 We're not suggesting sailing across but you can sail around the coast of or on
- 3 You can watch the sun set over
- 4 Go on one of our city breaks to or

A2. Listen to the announcement and complete the sentences.

- 1 The on 555FM is perfect for a Friday afternoon.
- 2 Are you sitting in your car in the ?
- 3 We bring you the latest every hour.
- 4 Then it's your chance to phone us and ask us a question about
- 5 Mark Sherlock, is here to give you

B. Grammar

B1 Plurals

Some things we wear or use are always plural. They are made of two parts which cannot be separate: *trousers*, *pyjamas*, *shorts*, *jeans*, *tights*, *pants*, *sunglasses*, *glasses*, *scissors*. They have a plural verb:

My trousers are new. (not My trouser is new.)

These shorts are dirty. (not This short is dirty.)

Other things we wear can be singular. They are made of two parts which can be separate: *shoe/shoes*, *sock/socks*, *earring/earrings*.

▲ The word *clothes* is never singular: *I bought some new clothes. (not I bought a new clothe.)*

B2 A(n), the and no article

	means:	use for:	use with:
<i>A(n)</i>	one of many: <i>My sister works in a cinema.</i>	new information: <i>My friend was talking to a girl.</i>	countable* nouns (<i>cinema, girl</i>)
<i>The</i>	the only one(s) or the particular one(s): <i>The cinema opened last week.</i>	things already introduced: <i>The girl was very angry.</i> when we already know what we are talking about: <i>Where's the money I lent you?</i>	countable* nouns (<i>cinema, girl</i>) and uncountable* nouns (<i>money</i>)
<i>No article</i>	all: <i>Cinemas show films.</i>	things in a general sense: <i>Money makes people happy.</i> <i>I like music.</i>	plural countable* nouns (<i>cinemas</i>) and uncountable* nouns (<i>money, music</i>)



B3 Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable nouns (e.g. *shoe, passport*)

- ◆ can be singular with *a, the*:

a passport, the phone

I've got a problem. (not I've got problem.)

- ◆ can be plural with no article, *some* or *the*:

shoes, some cars, the cars

- ◆ have a singular or plural verb:

The car is new. The cars are new.

Uncountable nouns (e.g. *air, bread, food, help, ice, music, money, pollution, rain, sand, travel*):

- ◆ use *the, some* or no article but not *a*:

the money, some money, money (not a money)

- ◆ cannot be plural:

money (not moneys), music (not musics)

- ◆ always have a singular verb:

The music is perfect. (not The musics are perfect.)

▲ These nouns are usually uncountable in English (but are countable in some other languages): *advice, furniture, hair, homework, information, luck, luggage, money, news, traffic, travel* (but *trip and journey* are countable), *weather, work*.

▲ *news* ends in *s* but is uncountable.

When we want to count things which are uncountable nouns, we use words like *a bag, a bottle, a box, a cup, a glass, a packet, a piece*:

I need a bottle of water. (not I need a water.)

Many drinks can be countable or uncountable:

Would you like a coffee? (= a cup of coffee)

I'd like two coffees and a tea, please. (= 2 cups of coffee + 1 cup of tea)

I bought some coffee in the market. (= a packet of coffee)

B4 The or no article

Places

There is no article before

- ◆ continents, most countries, states, cities, towns, villages:

Europe, Italy, London, Florida but we say *the Netherlands*.

- ◆ buildings and places that use the name of their town:

Manchester Airport, Cardiff Station, Edinburgh Castle, Durham University

▲ We say *at school, at work, at home* and *in bed*.

We put *the* before

- ◆ names of countries that include a word like *Republic* or *States*:

the United States, the Czech Republic

- ◆ oceans, seas and rivers: *the Pacific Ocean, the Danube* but not before lakes: *Lake Ontario*.

- ◆ regions: *the Far East, the north*

- ◆ groups of islands: *the Philippines*

- ◆ deserts and mountain ranges: *the Kalahari, the Himalayas* but not before one mountain:

Mount Everest

- ◆ the environment: *the sea, the coast, the seaside, the beach, the country, the mountains, the hills, the sky, the sun, the moon*



Jobs

We say *I'm a doctor*. (not *I'm doctor*.)

Entertainment

We *listen to the radio* but we *watch television*.

We *play the guitar* (a musical instrument) but we *play tennis* (a sport).

We *go to the cinema, the theatre* etc.

Travel

We *travel by train, bus etc.* (not *by the train*.)

Meals

We *have lunch, dinner etc.* (not *the lunch* etc.)

C. Practices

Practice 1

Look at this notice from a holiday cottage. For each of the underlined words, add s if it is plural countable.

Rose Cottage, Hobbs Farm, Newton, Near Norwich

Welcome!

To help you enjoy your stay, we offer some 1 *advice* for 2 *visitor* s

You can use 3 *euro* in Norwich city centre but you need English 4 *money* at the shop in Newton village. This shop sells good 5 *bread* and you can buy fresh 6 *vegetable* from the farmhouse. For other 7 *food* use the 8 *shop* in Ridby or Walcot.

If you want some 9 *information* about 10 *travel* and 11 *traffic* in the Ridby area, try the local radio station.

Notes

If you want to listen to 12 *music* please remember to keep the volume down. Please use only garden 13 *chair* in the garden. Do not take any sitting-room 14 *furniture* outside.

Please be careful not to bring any 15 *sand* or 16 *stone* into the cottage from the beach.

Thank you – enjoy your stay!



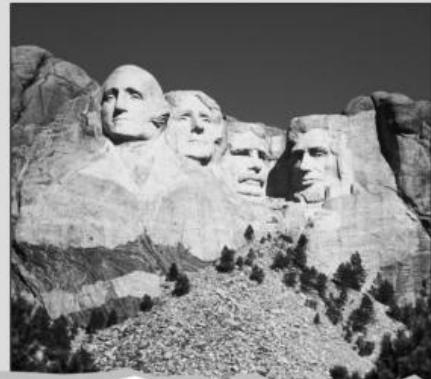
Practice 2

Read these short newspaper articles. Add *the*, *a* or *an* or nothing to the gaps.

1

THAT WAS LUCKY!

Last weekend 1 group of tourists had 2 lucky escape near 3 Mount Rushmore in 4 United States. Their car was hit by 5 small plane making an emergency landing. 6 pilot broke two toes. 7 tourists were not hurt, but their car and 8 plane were damaged.



2

NO MORE FOREIGN HOLIDAYS?

‘We must do more to prevent pollution,’ 1 professor at Exeter University in 2 South of England said yesterday. Professor Kirkwell said that pollution is increasing all over 3 world. ‘Places like 4 Andes mountains and 5 Sahara desert will get warmer, and some small islands will disappear. Everyone wants to travel by 6 plane but this cannot continue. People must think more carefully about 7 environment when they choose 8 holiday.’

3

THE WRONG JOB

Janice Miller left her job at 1 cinema near 2 Bristol in 3 west of England yesterday after only one day because she didn’t want to watch 4 horror film. ‘I didn’t know I’d see any films,’ she explained. ‘I saw 5 horror film once, and I was very frightened. I thought my job was just selling tickets.’

Stanley Greenham, 6 manager of 7 cinema, said that he was sorry.

‘I didn’t really explain 8 job to Janice at her interview,’ he added. ‘9 horror films we show aren’t very frightening. 10 young people usually like them.’



Practice 3

There is one mistake in each of these sentences. Find them and correct them.

- 1 I want to buy some trouser¹⁵ so I'll meet you by the new clothes shop.
- 2 Tom Cruise was wearing a black jacket, black jean and black shoes.
- 3 I'm happy with a furniture in my room, but I want to change the curtains.
- 4 I'm sending this card to wish you a good luck for your driving test.
- 5 My cousin's just been on a travel round France.
- 6 I listen to musics when I'm working so I feel more relaxed.
- 7 The weather was marvellous so we went to beach and swam in the sea.
- 8 I'll go to the swimming-pool for some informations about diving lessons.
- 9 If I send you a money, will you buy me some earnings like yours?
- 10 We saw some lovely old towns in Czech Republic on our last holiday.

---THE END---

