

UNIT 1

Plurals/Countables-Uncountables

Plural Number

- Most nouns form their plural by adding **-s**.



- Nouns ending in **-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, -o**, take **-es** in the plural:

bus - buses, dress - dresses, brush - brushes, torch - torches, box - boxes, etc.



But some nouns ending in **-o** take only **-s**.

radio - radios, piano - pianos, photo - photos, rhino - rhinos, hippo - hippos, video - videos, etc.

- Nouns ending in a **vowel + y** take **-s** in the plural.



- Nouns ending in a **consonant + y**, drop the **-y** and take **-ies** in the plural.



- Nouns ending in **-f** or **-fe**, drop the **f** or **-fe** and take **-ves** in the plural.



But some nouns ending in **-f** or **-fe** take only **-s**.

roof - roofs, giraffe - giraffes, cliff-cliffs, etc.

- Adjectives do not take **-s** in the plural.



1

Write the plural.

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 lemon ... lemons ... | 7 glass |
| 2 bus | 8 key |
| 3 peach | 9 piano |
| 4 cherry | 10 potato |
| 5 roof | 11 ball |
| 6 fox | 12 book |

Irregular Plurals

Some nouns are irregular. For example:



child



children



man



men



woman



women



goose



geese



tooth



teeth



foot



feet



ox



oxen



mouse



mice



sheep



sheep



deer



deer

2

Write the plural.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 sheep ... <i>sheep</i> ... | 11 policeman |
| 2 baby | 12 raspberry |
| 3 child | 13 sandwich |
| 4 green leaf | 14 mouse |
| 5 old lady | 15 photo |
| 6 radio | 16 cliff |
| 7 ox | 17 pen |
| 8 tall woman | 18 watch |
| 9 knife | 19 big foot |
| 10 toy | 20 nice book |

3

Write the plural.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 duck ... <i>ducks</i> ... | 7 giraffe |
| 2 ostrich | 8 deer |
| 3 parrot | 9 calf |
| 4 swan | 10 fox |
| 5 turkey | 11 mouse |
| 6 dolphin | 12 hippo |

4

Write the words in plural in the correct box.

bicycle, bus, cherry, knife, man, glass, child, house, apple, box, baby, ball, tomato, ferry, leaf, tooth, goose, radio, cliff, dress, torch, city, wife, ox, deer, calf, fox, giraffe, watch, parrot, lady, wolf, dish, boy, woman, melon, sheep, armchair

-s *bicycles,*-es *buses,*-ies *cherries,*-ves *knives,*irregular *men,*

Pronunciation

The suffix of the plural form is pronounced:

- ◆ /s/ when the noun ends in a(n) /t/, /k/, /p/, /t/ or /θ/ sound.
cliffs, books, shops, cats, myths, etc.
- ◆ /ɪz/ when the noun ends in a(n) /s/, /ks/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /z/ or /ʒ/ sound.
buses, foxes, brushes, torches, bridges, roses, mirages, etc.
- ◆ /ɪz/ when the noun ends in any other sound.
rooms, boys, pears, leaves, lemons, pianos, etc.

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First say the words in the plural, then write them in the correct box.

desk, church, apple, dolphin, chair, hat, baby, dress, bird, ball, cliff, box, radio, shirt, rose, dish, roof, song, skirt, cherry, fox, bag, clock, glass, piano, onion, basket, bush, ferry, cage, key, myth, bus, flower, door, orange

/s/ desks,

/ɪz/ churches,

/ɪz/ apples,



Countable-Uncountable Nouns

- ◆ **Countable nouns** are nouns which can be counted (e.g. *one apple, two apples, etc.*) and can be in the singular or the plural. We put **a** before the noun in the singular when it begins with a consonant sound (b, d, p, etc.) and **an** when it begins with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u).
- ◆ **Uncountable nouns** are nouns which cannot be counted and they usually have no plural. These nouns include:
 - food:** cheese, butter, meat, salt, pepper, bacon, bread, chocolate, honey, jam, etc.
 - liquids:** coffee, milk, water, tea, wine, lemonade, petrol, oil, etc.
 - materials:** gold, iron, silver, wood, paper, etc.
 - abstract nouns:** beauty, love, happiness, etc.
 - others:** hair, money, news, snow, furniture, weather, advice, etc.



a flower



three flowers



an apple



two apples

some cheese
not: ~~a cheese~~

some bananas

- ◆ We use **some** with uncountable nouns and not **a/an**. We also use **some** with countable nouns but only in the plural.

Plurals/Countables-Uncountables

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Write a, an or some.

1 *some* meat

2 orange



3 ... chocolate



4 jam



5 butter



6 leaves



7 soup



8 egg



9 coffee



10 .. elephant



11 milk



12 cups



13 ... lemons



14 bread



15 doll

7

Write a, an or some. Which nouns are countable/uncountable?

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 ..a.. biscuit | 7 armchair | 13 money |
| 2 tea | 8 plate | 14 watches |
| 3 carrot | 9 chair | 15 salt |
| 4 ring | 10 pepper | 16 honey |
| 5 bread | 11 cat | 17 water |
| 6 boxes | 12 dress | 18 advice |

Some uncountable nouns can be made countable by using the following words in front of them: jar, bottle, piece, loaf, cup, bar, glass, kilo, carton, bowl, can, jug, slice, tin, packet, etc.



a jar of marmalade



a bottle of beer



a piece of pie



a loaf of bread



a cup of coffee



a bar of chocolate



a glass of milk



a kilo of meat



a carton of milk



a bowl of soup



a can of fruit juice



a jug of orange juice



a slice of bread



a tin of fish



a packet of spaghetti

8

Match the words as in the example:

a glass of

a slice of

a bar of

a tin of

a carton of

a piece of

a bottle of

a cup of

chocolate

Coke

bread

lemonade

beans

tea

orange juice

cake

coffee

wine

soap

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9

Write how many you can see in the pictures.



1 ..two cups of coffee.. 2



3 4



5 6

10

Make the following nouns countable.

- 1 some Coke - two glasses/bottles/cans of Coke
- 2 some bread - three
- 3 some chocolate - four
- 4 some water - five
- 5 some cheese - two
- 6 some meat - three
- 7 some wine - eight
- 8 some salmon - four
- 9 some milk - ten
- 10 some soap - four

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Circle the uncountable noun in each group.

- 1 furniture chair, table, desk
- 2 potato, carrot, tomato, soup
- 3 coffee, cup, glass, jug
- 4 sheep, meat, ox, calf
- 5 apple, strawberry, chocolate, cherry
- 6 glass, bottle, can, soda
- 7 loaf, slice, bread, piece
- 8 wood, tree, leaf, flower

ORAL Activity

Do this activity in pairs. One of you is the grocer and the other is the customer. Look at the pictures and act out similar dialogues.

- e.g. SA: Hello! Can I help you?
 SB: Yes please. I need a kilo of strawberries and two kilos of carrots.
 SA: Anything else?
 SB: Yes. A carton of orange juice and two tins of beans.
 SA: Here you are.
 SB: Thank you.



strawberries



carrots

onions



sausages



olives



BEANS

WRITING Activity

You are having a party. Ten friends are coming. Look at the pictures in the oral activity, add your own ideas and complete the shopping list for your party.

Shopping List

a kilo of strawberries