

03 Countable & Uncountable Nouns

There are two types of nouns: countable nouns and uncountable nouns. Countable nouns are people or things that can be counted. A countable noun comes after **a(n)**, **the**, **many**, **a few**, etc. A countable noun has the plural form that usually ends with **-s** or **-es**. **Uncountable nouns** are people or things that **cannot be counted**. An uncountable noun **has no -s or -es ending form**. Both plural nouns and uncountable nouns **can stand alone without an article or a possessive adjective** in complete sentences.

| | Plural form | a(n) | the | the + plural form | No article | many, much | a few, a little |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| Countable noun (desk) | desks [✓] | a desk [✓] | the desk [✓] | the desks [✓] | desk [x] | many desks | a few desks |
| Uncountable noun (money) | moneys [x] | a money [x] | the money [✓] | the moneys [x] | money [✓] | much money | a little money |

They/are now conducting/**research**/on **the effects**/of **stress**.

Attention!

Some uncountable nouns that are often found on the TOEIC test include **baggage**, **luggage**, **information**, **traffic**, **furniture**, **equipment**, **machinery**, **merchandise**, and **research**.

Exercises

A Choose the correct option in brackets for each sentence.

- All the (furniture/furnitures) at Living Space Co. is affordable.
- Fast Pizza has received (complaint/complaints) about its late delivery.
- Mr. Jeff Slim does not spend (many/much) money on office decorations.
- I have a few (relative/relatives) who live nearby.
- The agency offered (information/informations) about the city's tourism industry.

B Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

- There was _____ traffic downtown this morning.
(A) a few (B) a little (C) many (D) a
- High Fashion, Inc. on Broadway will have a sale to clear out holiday _____.
(A) merchandises (B) merchandise (C) merchants (D) merchandising

04 Pronouns

A **personal pronoun** refers to a specific person or thing. There are subject pronouns and object pronouns. The subject pronoun starts a sentence and comes before the main verb in the sentence. The object pronoun comes right after a verb or a preposition in the sentence.

A **possessive pronoun** is used to substitute a noun phrase that indicates a possession relation.

A **reflexive pronoun** is formed by adding the suffix **-self** (or **-selves** in the plural form) to an object pronoun or a possessive adjective. It is used to show that the object of a certain verb is the same person or thing as the subject of a sentence. It is also used to emphasize the subject who does/did the action.

| Number | Person | Gender | Personal pronouns | | Possessive pronouns | Reflexive pronouns |
|----------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Subject | Object | | |
| Singular | 1 st | male/female | I | me | mine | myself |
| | 2 nd | male/female | you | you | yours | yourself |
| | 3 rd | male | he | him | his | himself |
| | | female | she | her | hers | herself |
| | | neuter | it | it | | itself |
| Plural | 1 st | male/female | we | us | ours | ourselves |
| | 2 nd | male/female | you | you | yours | yourselves |
| | 3 rd | male/female/neuter | they | them | theirs | themselves |

We/are looking forward/to reading/his latest novel, *Destiny*.

Exercises

A Choose the correct options in brackets for each sentence.

- Ms. Kelly called (him/he) this morning, but (he/himself) was out of town.
- (We/Us) are so delighted that you have agreed to work with (us/ours).
- If you contact (ours/us), (we/us) will send you the new brochure.
- (I/mine) am sure my grades are worse than (yourself/yours).

B Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

- If this project goes smoothly, we will have more work with _____ in the future.
(A) they (B) them (C) themselves (D) theirs
- We regret to tell _____ that we cannot deliver your recent orders.
(A) you (B) us (C) yours (D) yourself

1. Because of some _____ about the noise, they had to stop the outdoor performance.
(A) complain
(B) complaints
(C) complaining
(D) being complained
2. The _____ of maintenance has to be reduced during the economic crisis.
(A) cost
(B) costly
(C) costing
(D) more costly
3. Ms. Page in the Marketing Department is excellent at _____.
(A) present
(B) presenting
(C) presented
(D) presentations
4. Airport security staff will search _____ for any illegal items.
(A) luggage
(B) luggages
(C) a luggage
(D) some luggages
5. We shall finally have what is rightfully _____.
(A) we
(B) us
(C) his
(D) ours
6. A few _____ wrote positive reviews about the new dessert menu.
(A) critic
(B) critics
(C) critical
(D) criticize
7. Kelly Smith is a prospective candidate for an upcoming _____.
(A) promote
(B) promotes
(C) promotion
(D) promoting
8. The _____ at the FAL Language Institute should have more than three years of experience.
(A) instructors
(B) instructions
(C) instructing
(D) instructive