Countable and uncountable nouns

countable and uncountable nouns; quantity expressions (*many, much, a lot of, some, any, a few, few, no*)

7

A Context listening

1 **You are going to hear Alan and Sara talking about advertising a spare bedroom to rent. Before you listen look at the types of furniture below. Tick the furniture you think might be in the room.**

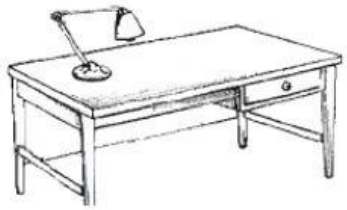
☐ shelves	☐ a wardrobe	☐ a lamp	☐ a bedside table
☐ a filing cabinet	☐ a bed	☐ a desk	☐ a mirror
☐ a sofa	☐ a towel rail	☐ a coffee table	☐ a rug

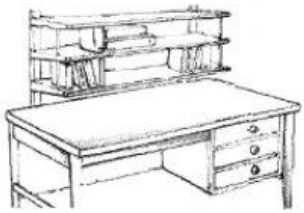
2 7 **Listen and answer the questions below.**

1 Which three pieces of furniture are in the room?

A a bed
B a bedside table
C a desk
E a lamp
F a mirror
G a wardrobe

2 What does the desk look like?

A 

B 

C 

3 7 **Listen again and fill in the gaps in the advertisement. Write no more than one word or a number for each answer.**

Accommodation for rent

Small, furnished 1 ..... available. Sunny with a nice view of the 2 ..... . Good location close to two types of 3 ..... . Rent 4 £..... per 5 ..... . Rent includes 6 ..... and all other bills.

4 **Look at the two groups of nouns in the table below. How are they different? Add the nouns from Exercises 2 and 3 into the table in the correct group.**

Group 1	Group 2
advertisement *newspaper* *windows*	*money* *news* *accommodation*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C Grammar exercises

1 **Fill in the gaps with a word from the box below in the correct form. If the word is countable, you may need to change it to a plural form.**

advice cake challenge electricity information situation size

1 I've faced many ...challenges... in my life, but none as difficult as this.
2 Some of the best ..... I heard while I was a student was to take regular breaks when studying so that you don't lose concentration.
3 A dictionary is a wonderful source of ..... .
4 I've made some little ..... for Claire's birthday party.
5 One hundred years ago cars all looked the same but these days they come in lots of different shapes and ..... .
6 My job as a journalist means I can find myself in difficult ..... at times, but at least it's never boring.
7 There was no ..... in the remote cottage, so they had to cook over the fire.

2 **Underline the correct form of the verbs.**

1 Despite the recent improvement in the economy, unemployment *has continued / have continued* to rise.
2 Our company hasn't changed its products for over 30 years but now the time *has come / have come* for a rethink.
3 The ideas in the report *was / were* presented in a very clear way.
4 The data *show / shows* that the numbers of people buying mobile phones has remained stable for the past two years.
5 Transport to and from the airport *is included / are included* in the price.
6 There *was / were* no facilities like running water or electricity in the village.
7 All the information *is / are* interesting and well presented, but we need to consider the whole situation very carefully before we reach a decision.
8 There *was / were* some important news about the proposed new hospital in the local paper today.

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3 Fill in the gaps with *amount*, *number*, *few*, *little*, *many* or *much*.

How much sleep do we need?

The 1 amount of sleep each person needs depends on 2 ..... factors, including age. Infants generally require about 16 hours a day. For most adults, seven to eight hours a night appears to be the ideal 3 ..... of sleep, although a 4 ..... people may need as 5 ..... as five hours' sleep or as 6 ..... as ten hours' sleep each day. Getting too 7 ..... sleep creates a sleep debt, and eventually, your body will demand that the debt be repaid.

A large 8 ..... of people over 65 have frequent sleeping problems, such as insomnia, and deep sleep stages in 9 ..... elderly people often become very short or stop completely. Microsleeps, or very brief episodes of sleep in an otherwise awake person, are another mark of sleep deprivation. In 10 ..... cases, people are not aware that they are experiencing microsleeps. The widespread practice of burning the candle at both ends in western industrialized societies has created so 11 ..... sleep deprivation that what is really abnormal sleepiness is now almost the norm.

4 Read the extract from a talk about a holiday destination. Decide if the underlined quantity expressions are correct or not. Tick (✓) them if they are right and correct them if they are wrong.

The island is beautiful. Don't be dismayed when you get off the plane and find yourself in a large, rather ugly city with 1 a little sense of the old way of life you have read about. Just a short car ride away is the island you have been promised with its small villages and slow pace of life. And there really is 2 anything for everyone. For those that like sunbathing, it has 3 some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. If you like walking, the paths take you through some breathtaking scenery. 4 Little other places can match the stunning landscape of this island. For water sports enthusiasts, there are 5 any unusual activities such as diving for pearls or turtle spotting, along with 6 few of the more common sports such as waterskiing or windsurfing. If history is your thing, don't worry. There's 7 much history round every corner. Ruins from the ancient civilisations that lived here over 3000 years ago are everywhere, and although 8 a lot of people come here just to see the palace, you can find some lesser remains scattered around the surrounding hills.

Visit it 9 some time of the year and you will not be disappointed. Not 10 many places in the world can offer so much. 11 Not any holiday will ever match this one – our island has got it all!

1 ~~a~~ little
2 .....
3 .....
4 .....
5 .....
6 .....
7 .....
8 .....
9 .....
10 .....
11 .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Test practice

Academic Reading

*You should spend about 20 minutes on **Questions 1–14** which are based on the Reading Passage below.*

Dressed to dazzle

As high-tech materials invade high-street fashion, prepare for clothes that are cooler than silk and warmer than wool, keep insects at arm's length, and emit many pinpricks of coloured light.

The convergence of fashion and high technology is leading to new kinds of fibres, fabrics and coatings that are imbuing clothing with equally wondrous powers. Corpe Nove, an Italian fashion company, has made a prototype shirt that shortens its sleeves when room temperature rises and can be ironed with a hairdryer. And at Nexia Biotechnologies, a Canadian firm, scientists have caused a stir by manufacturing spider silk from the milk of genetically engineered goats. Not surprisingly, some industry analysts think high-tech materials may soon influence fashion more profoundly than any individual designer.

A big impact is already being made at the molecular level. Nano-Tex, a subsidiary of American textiles maker Burlington, markets a portfolio of nanotechnologies that can make fabrics more durable, comfortable, wrinkle-free and stain-resistant. The notion of this technology posing a threat to the future of the clothing industry clearly does not worry popular fashion outlets such as Gap, Levi Strauss and Lands' End, all of which employ Nano-Tex's products. Meanwhile, Schoeller Textil in Germany, whose clients include famous designers Donna Karan and Polo Ralph Lauren, uses nanotechnology to create fabrics that can store or release heat.

Sensory Perception Technologies (SPT) embodies an entirely different application of nanotechnology. Created in 2003 by Quest International, a flavour and fragrance company, and Woolmark, a wool textile organisation, SPT is a new technique of embedding chemicals into fabric. Though not the first of this type, SPT's durability (evidently the microcapsule containing the chemicals can survive up to 30 washes) suggests an interesting future. Designers could incorporate signature scents into their collections. Sportswear could be impregnated with anti-perspirant. Hayfever sufferers might find relief by pulling on a T-shirt, and so on.

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The loudest buzz now surrounds polylactic acid (PLA) fibres – and, in particular, one brand-named Ingeo. Developed by Cargill Dow, it is the first man-made fibre derived from a 100% annually renewable resource. This is currently maize (corn), though in theory any fermentable plant material, even potato peelings, can be used. In performance terms, the attraction for the 30-plus clothes makers signed up to use Ingeo lies in its superiority over polyester (which it was designed to replace).

As Philippa Watkins, a textiles specialist, notes, Ingeo is not a visual trend. Unlike nanotechnology, which promises to transform what clothes can do, Ingeo's impact on fashion will derive instead from its emphasis on using natural sustainable resources. Could wearing synthetic fabrics made from polluting and non-renewable fossil fuels become as uncool as slipping on a coat made from animal fur? Consumers should expect a much wider choice of 'green' fabrics. Alongside PLA fibres, firms are investigating plants such as bamboo, seaweed, nettles and banana stalks as raw materials for textiles. Soya bean fibre is also gaining ground. Harvested in China and spun in Europe, the fabric is a better absorber and ventilator than silk, and retains heat better than wool.

Elsewhere, fashion houses – among them Ermenegildo Zegna, Paul Smith and DKNY – are combining fashion with electronics. Clunky earlier attempts involved attaching electronic components to the fabrics after the normal weaving process. But companies such as SOFTswitch have developed electro-conductive fabrics that behave in similar ways to conventional textiles.

Could electronic garments one day change colour or pattern? A hint of what could be achieved is offered by Luminex, a joint venture between Stabio Textile and Caen. Made of woven optical fibres and powered by a small battery, Luminex fabric emits thousands of pinpricks of light, the colour of which can be varied. Costumes made of the fabric wowed audiences at a production of the opera *Aida* in Washington, DC, last year.

Yet this ultimate of ambitions has remained elusive in daily fashion, largely because electronic textiles capable of such wizardry are still too fragile to wear. Margaret Orth, whose firm International Fashion Machines makes a colour-changing fabric, believes the capability is a decade or two away. Accessories with this chameleon-like capacity – for instance, a handbag that alters its colour – are more likely to appear first.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions 1–6

*Look at the following list of companies (**1–6**) and the list of new materials below.*

Match each company with the correct material.

*Write the correct letter **A–H** next to the companies 1–6.*

***NB** You may use any answer more than once.*

1 Corpe Nove .....
2 Nexia Biotechnologies .....
3 Nano-Tex .....
4 Schoeller Textil .....
5 Quest International and Woolmark .....
6 Cargill Dow .....

New materials

A material that can make you warmer or cooler
B clothing with perfume or medication added
C material that rarely needs washing
D clothes that can change according to external heat levels
E material made from banana stalks
F material that is environmentally-friendly
G fibres similar to those found in nature
H clothes that can light up in the dark

Questions 7–14

Complete the summary below.

*Write **NO MORE THAN TWO WORDS** from the Reading Passage for each answer.*

Major changes in fabrics

Using plants

Nanotechnology will bring changes we can see, while the brand called **7** ..... will help the environment. Fibre made from the **8** ..... plant has better qualities than silk and wool.

Electronics

In first attempts to use electronics, companies started with a material made by a standard **9** ..... method and then they fixed **10** ..... to the material.
Luminex fabric

- needs a **11** ..... to make it work.
- has already been used to make stage **12** ..... .
- is not suitable for everyday wear because it is too **13** ..... .

The first products that can change colour are likely to be **14** ..... .

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Grammar focus task

Which of these nouns from the text are countable (C) and which are uncountable (U)? Which is an example of a noun that can be both countable and uncountable? How is it used in the text?

1 materials (paragraph 1) ...C...
2 shirt (paragraph 2) .....
3 heat (paragraph 3) .....
4 technique (paragraph 4) .....
5 sportswear (paragraph 4) .....
6 fibre (paragraph 5) .....
7 clothes (paragraph 6) .....
8 choice (paragraph 6) .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS