

Plural nouns; one and ones

- 1 We normally form plural nouns by adding -s:

SINGULAR		PLURAL
a cup	→	some cups
one student	→	three students
the cat	→	the cats

- 2 one and ones

Sometimes we use **one** instead of repeating a singular noun:

I'm going to buy a drink. Would you like one?

Our house is the one with the red door.

Or, we use **ones** instead of a plural noun:

Shall I buy the red apples or the green ones?

These biscuits are cheaper than those ones.

- 3 We often use Which one ...? and Which ones ...? in questions:



Shop assistant: *Which one would you like, the black dress or the pink one?*

Mary: *I'd like the black one, please.*

Jim: *I like the black and white photographs. Which ones do you like? The black and white ones or the colour ones?*

Susan: *I prefer the colour ones.*

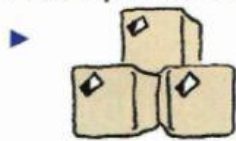
- 4 But we form some plural nouns differently:

man	→ men	+ -es
woman	→ women	bus → buses
child	→ children	kiss → kisses
person	→ people	wish → wishes
foot	→ feet	watch → watches
tooth	→ teeth	match → matches
sheep	→ sheep	box → boxes
mouse	→ mice	potato → potatoes
fish	→ fish	tomato → tomatoes
-y	→ -ies	-f/-fe → -ves
family	→ families	loaf → loaves
city	→ cities	wife → wives
country	→ countries	knife → knives

(For more information on plural nouns, see Appendix 1 on page 242.)

Practice

- A Put in plural nouns to describe the pictures.



Some boxes



Some



Two



Some



Three



Some



Some



Four



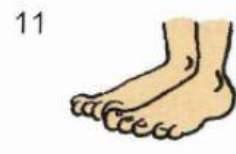
Some



Some



Two



Two

B Tick (✓) the correct plural forms and cross out the wrong ones.

► knives ✓	tooths	matches	wishs
► matchs	citys	cities	men
countries	potatoes	teeth	familys
wishes	tomatos	mouses	wifes
wives	potatos	countrys	tomatoes
mans	mice	knifes	families

C Rewrite the sentence in brackets (), replacing one of the words with *one* or *ones*.

- He's just bought a new suit.
(It's a blue suit.) *It's a blue one.*
- A: Who is your favourite actor?
B: (The actor that I like best is Joe Late.) *The one that I like best is Joe Late.*
- 1 I'm going to buy an orange juice.
(Would you like an orange juice?)
- 2 The chocolate cakes are popular.
(But the strawberry cakes are nicer.)
- 3 A: Which house do you like?
B: (I like the house with the red door.)
- 4 I bought a blue carpet last time.
(This time I want a green carpet.)
- 5 English is a difficult language.
(There isn't an easy language.)
- 6 A: Where did you put the photos?
B: (Do you mean the photos that we took in Turkey?)

D Eric and Ellen are buying things for their new apartment. Complete the dialogue with *one* or *ones*.

- Ellen: Here's the china department. We need some cups.
- Eric: Do we want large (►) *ones* or small (1) ?
- Ellen: Small (2) are best.
- Eric: But I like tea in a large cup.
- Ellen: OK, put six small cups and a large (3) in the basket.
- Eric: What about a teapot? There's a metal (4) and a nice china (5) Which (6) do you like?
- Ellen: I prefer the china (7)
- Eric: It's similar to the little cups but it's not like my big (8)
- Ellen: Well, it doesn't have to be exactly the same. Now, we also need knives.
- Eric: Can't we use the (9) that my mother gave us?
- Ellen: Well, I suppose the big (10) for bread is all right, but we certainly need some little (11) for vegetables and a sharp (12) for meat.
- Eric: All right. Where are the knives?