Nouns – Articles

10

25 **Listen and repeat. Then act out.**



There are four kinds of nouns: abstract *(love, beauty, etc.)*, **common** *(chair, table, etc.)*, **collective** *(class, audience, family, government, staff, team, etc.)*, **and proper** *(Ann, Ted, Spain, etc.)*.

Gender

Masculine = men, boys, animals when we know their sex (he)
Feminine = women, girls, ships, animals when we know their sex (she)
Neuter = things, babies / animals when we don't know their sex (it)

Most personal nouns have the same form whether male or female (*doctor*, *teacher*, etc.). Some nouns have different forms, though. Some of these are:

actor – actress	father – mother	landlord – landlady	son – daughter
boy – girl	gentleman – lady	lord – lady	uncle – aunt
(bride)groom – bride	grandfather – grandmother	monk – nun	waiter – waitress
brother – sister	hero – heroine	nephew – niece	widower – widow
duke – duchess	husband – wife	policeman – policewoman	
emperor – empress	king – queen	prince – princess	

1 Write (M) for male, (F) for female or (M/F).

1 doctor	M/F	7 pilot	.....	13 child	.....	19 landlord	.....
2 nurse	.....	8 waiter	.....	14 lord	.....	20 widow	.....
3 teacher	.....	9 wife	.....	15 queen	.....	21 grandfather	.....
4 typist	.....	10 driver	.....	16 heroine	.....	22 policeman	.....
5 student	.....	11 emperor	.....	17 scientist	.....	23 engineer	.....
6 bride	.....	12 king	.....	18 prince	.....	24 musician	.....

2 Write the masculine or feminine of the following people if there is a difference.

1 husband	....wife....	6 nephew	.....	11 doctor	.....
2 politician	.....	7 policeman	.....	12 monk	.....
3 brother	.....	8 lawyer	.....	13 duke	.....
4 uncle	.....	9 waiter	.....	14 clerk	.....
5 student	.....	10 actor	.....	15 shop assistant	.....

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The Plural of Nouns

Nouns are made plural by adding:

-s to the noun. *(pen – pens, etc.)*

-es to nouns ending in -s, -ss, -x, -ch, -sh. *(bus – buses, glass – glasses, box – boxes, torch – torches, bush – bushes, etc.)*

-ies to nouns ending in consonant + y. *(baby – babies, lady – ladies, etc.)*

-s to nouns ending in vowel + y. *(boy – boys, day – days, etc.)*

-es to nouns ending in -o *(tomato – tomatoes)*

-s to nouns ending in: vowel + o *(radio – radios)*, **double o** *(zoo – zoos)*, **abbreviations** *(photo – photos)* **and musical instruments** *(piano – pianos)*
Some nouns ending in -o can take either -es or -s (*buffalo, mosquito, volcano, etc.*).

-ves to some nouns ending in -f / -fe. *(leaf – leaves)* **(but: *chiefs, roofs, cliffs, handkerchiefs, safes, etc.*)**

Compound Nouns form their plural by adding -s / -es:

to the second noun if the compound consists of two nouns. *girlfriend – girlfriends*

to the noun if the compound consists of an adjective and a noun.
frying pan – frying pans

to the first noun if the compound consists of two nouns connected with a preposition.
sister-in-law – sisters-in-law

at the end of the compound if this is not made up of any nouns. *breakdown – breakdowns*

Irregular Plurals

• man – **men** • woman – **women** • foot – **feet** • tooth – **teeth** • louse – **lice** • mouse – **mice**
• child – **children** • goose – **geese** • sheep – **sheep** • deer – **deer** • fish – **fish** • trout – **trout**

3 Write the plural of the following nouns:

1	city	cities	8	tray	.....	15	potato	.....
2	brother-in-law	.....	9	roof	.....	16	dining room	.....
3	headline	.....	10	goose	.....			.....
4	photo	.....	11	trout	.....	17	water bottle	.....
5	stepfather	.....	12	mouse	.....			.....
6	couch	.....	13	tooth	.....	18	bus driver	.....
7	dish	.....	14	knife	.....			.....

Singular or Plural verbs

Some nouns take only a plural verb. These are nouns which have a plural meaning such as *clothes, people, police, stairs*, etc. or objects which consist of two parts such as *trousers, pyjamas, binoculars, scissors, shoes, shorts, gloves, glasses, socks*, etc. We do not use *a/an* or a number with these words. We use the phrase pair of ... instead.
*Where **are** your **earrings**? I was given a **pair of earrings**.*

Some nouns take only a singular verb. These are: mass nouns *(bread, tea, milk, etc.)*, **school subjects** *(Maths, Physics, History, etc.)*, **games / diseases** *(football, billiards, mumps, etc.)*, **nouns such as *advice, weather, luggage, furniture, money, news, knowledge, work*, etc.**

Group nouns refer to a group of people. These nouns can take either a singular or a plural verb depending on whether we see the group as a whole or as individuals. Such group nouns are: *audience, class, club, committee, company, council, crew, family, government, press, public, staff, team*, etc. *The **team was** the best in the country.* (the team as a group)
*The **team were** all given medals.* (each member separately as individuals)

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4 Fill in: *is* or *are*.

1 Where ...*are*... your trousers?
2 Could you tell me where the scissors .....?
3 Money ..... easy to spend but difficult to save.
4 Gloves ..... worn in cold weather.
5 Jake's ideas ..... amazing!
6 This bread ..... not fresh.
7 Your pyjamas ..... on the bed.
8 My luggage ..... too heavy to carry.
9 My advice to you ..... to get some rest.
10 Physics ..... my favourite subject.
11 Measles ..... a common illness.
12 These trousers ..... too big for me.
13 The weather ..... wonderful today.
14 Jo's boots ..... made of leather.
15 Darts ..... a popular game in England.
16 This work ..... too hard for me.

Some nouns have a different meaning in plural.

Singular	Plural
*The needle of a **compass** always points north.*	*You can draw perfect circles with **compasses**.*
*It is an English **custom** to celebrate the Queen's birthday.*	*When he got off the plane, his bag was searched at **customs**.*
*She has a lot of **experience** working with children.*	*The main character in the book had been through a lot of bad **experiences**.*
*Would you like a **glass** of milk?*	*He can't see very well without his **glasses**.*
*She has got long, blonde **hair**.*	*There are two **hairs** in this soup!*
*They were shocked at the **scale** of the disaster.*	*She weighed herself on the **scales**.*
*This door is made of **wood**.*	*The boy got lost in the **woods**.*
*He goes to **work** every day except Sunday.*	*Picasso's **works** are really fascinating.*

5 Complete the sentences using the nouns in the *singular* or *plural form*.

1 **hair**
a Mrs Williams has short, red ....*hair*.... .
b The dog has left white ..... all over the sofa.

2 **wood**
a The chair is made of ..... .
b They went for a walk in the ..... after lunch.

3 **experience**
a She had a lot of exciting ..... while living abroad.
b I don't think he has any ..... for the job.

4 **scale**
a Can you put that chicken on the ..... for me, please?
b We don't know the true ..... of the problem yet.

5 **compass**
a They used a ..... to find where they were.
b The teacher told the students to use their ..... to draw some circles.

6 **work**
a Jo started ..... when he was sixteen.
b The museum has ..... by Matisse as well as other painters.

7 **glass**
a I need a new pair of ..... .
b Can you bring me a ..... of water, please?

8 **custom**
a My plane landed an hour ago but the line for ..... was very long.
b In Japan it is a ..... to take a gift when you visit someone.

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Countable – Uncountable Nouns

Nouns can be countable (those that can be counted *a bag, an orange, some books, etc.*) **or uncountable (those that can't be counted** *flour, sugar, etc.*). **Uncountable nouns take a singular verb. They are not used with *a* / *an*. Some, any, no, much, etc. can be used with them.**
I need ***some*** *help.* (NOT: ~~*a help*~~) *There isn't* ***much*** *sugar left.*

The most common uncountable nouns are: *accommodation*, *advice*, *behaviour*, *bread*, *business*, *education*, *evidence*, *food*, *fruit*, *furniture*, *gold*, *hair*, *happiness*, *help*, *homework*, *housework*, *information*, *jewellery*, *knowledge*, *luck*, *luggage*, *meat*, *money*, *music*, *news*, *rubbish*, *shopping*, *soap*, *spaghetti*, *traffic*, *trouble*, *water*, *weather*, *work*, etc.

Many uncountable nouns can be made countable with the following phrases of quantity:
a **piece** of cake / information / advice / furniture; a **glass** / **bottle** of water / soda; a **jar** of jam; a **tin** of fish; / a **box** of chocolates; a **packet** of biscuits / tea; a **slice** / **loaf** of bread; a **pot** of yoghurt; a **pot** / **cup** of tea; a **kilo** / **pound** of meat; a **tube** of toothpaste; a **bar** of chocolate / soap; a **bit** / **piece** of chalk; an ice **cube**; a **lump** of sugar; a **sheet** of paper; a **bag** of flour; a **pair** of trousers; a **game** of soccer; a(n) **item** / **piece** of news; a **drop** / **bottle** of oil; a **can** of cola; a **carton** of milk; a **block** of wood, etc.

6 Write *a*, *an*, or *some*.

1	some	tea	6	.....	balls	11	..... apricot	16	..... food
2	.....	bird	7	.....	soap	12	..... luggage	17	..... elephant
3	.....	pens	8	.....	bridge	13	..... boy	18	..... furniture
4	.....	bread	9	.....	water	14	..... fruit	19	..... money
5	.....	housework	10	.....	news	15	..... information	20	..... traffic

7 Wendy is going to the supermarket to buy the items in the pictures below. Write out her shopping list.



Shopping list

a bag of flour

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8 Fill in the gaps with the words from the list in the correct form.

packet bottle cup bag carton ~~kilo~~ jar tin

Freemont Supermarket
Special Offers!

Three 1) ..kilos.. of potatoes for the price of two!

Buy a 2) ..... of jam and get a second one for free!

Buy a 3) ..... of juice at half price!

Six 4) ..... of beans for the price of four!

Five 5) ..... of mineral water. Get one free!

Buy two 6) ..... of tea and get a free 7) ..... of sugar!

Enjoy a 8) ..... of fresh coffee as you shop!

9 Underline the correct item.



A: Let's make a list of what we need for Beth's party.
B: Yes, write down six 1) **bottles** / **cartons** of diet soda.
A: OK. We also need ten 2) **packets** / **jars** of crisps.
B: Don't forget the biscuits!
A: What about sandwiches?
B: Oh, we need a 3) **loaf** / **lump** of bread and twenty 4) **loaves** / **slices** of cheese.
A: We should get 5) **a** / **some** broccoli and celery for the vegetable pie, too.
B: What else do we need to buy?
A: How about 6) **a** / **some** large cheesecake and 7) **some** / **any** pastries from the bakery?
B: Great idea! OK, I think that should be enough.

10 Fill in *a*, *an*, or *some*.

1 A: Mum, is there anything to eat?
B: I believe there's ...some... lasagne left in the fridge.

2 A: I need ..... information for my History project.
B: Why don't you look on the internet?

3 A: Do we have any fruit left?
B: Yes, there's ..... apple on the kitchen table.

4 A: Do you need anything from the supermarket?
B: Just ..... eggs. I'm going to bake ..... cake.

5 A: Would you like ..... cup of tea?
B: No thanks. I just had ..... glass of juice.

6 A: Can I have ..... ice cream with my apple pie?
B: Of course you can.

7 A: I had ..... pancakes with strawberries for breakfast.
B: Really? I had ..... omelette.

8 A: That was ..... delicious meal!
B: I agree. She is ..... amazing cook.

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