



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    | ..... | 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 | ..... |

### 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           | ..... | 8 tray   | ..... | 15 potato       | ..... |
| 2 brother-in-law | ..... | 9 roof   | ..... | 16 dining room  | ..... |
| 3 headline       | ..... | 10 goose | ..... | 17 water bottle | ..... |
| 4 photo          | ..... | 11 trout | ..... | 18 bus driver   | ..... |
| 5 stepfather     | ..... | 12 mouse | ..... |                 |       |
| 6 couch          | ..... | 13 tooth | ..... |                 |       |
| 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)

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

## 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.

## 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 | <i>some</i> | 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*

## 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!

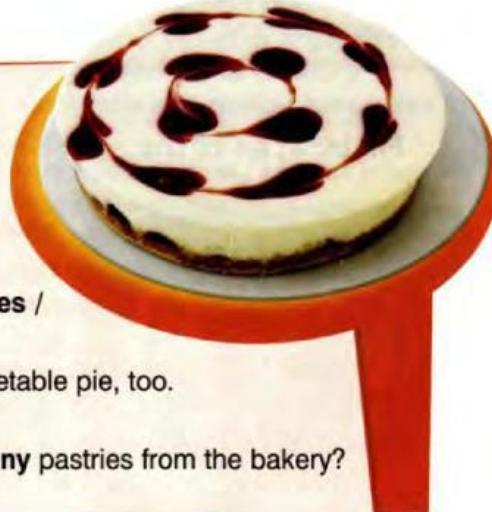
Five 5) ..... of mineral water. Get one free!

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.