

NOUNS

PRACTICE

EXERCISE 1. Write answers to the quiz questions. Use **ONLY** plural nouns. The first letter is given, so **JUST** right the missing ones.

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| 1 People use these to cut meat with. | knives |
| 2 People wear these to tell the time. | w |
| 3 We eat these round red fruits in salads. | t |
| 4 You stand and walk on these important parts of the body. | f |
| 5 You brush these after you've eaten. | t |
| 6 Half the world are men. What are the other half? | w |
| 7 These people are between the ages of 3 and 12. | c |
| 8 When these little people are born, their parents are happy. | b |
| 9 We get wool from these animals. | s |
| 10 There are seven of these in a week. | d |

EXERCISE 2. Which alternatives are correct? Sometimes only **ONE** alternative is correct, and sometimes two alternatives are possible. Tick all the possible alternatives.

- Mary's got which comes halfway down her back.
A long hair B long-hairs C a-long-hair
- There's about English courses at the back of the book. It's very useful.
A some information B an information C some informations
- It's today, isn't it? Let's go for a swim.
A beautiful weather B a beautiful weather C a beautiful day
- My son gave me for my birthday. It smells lovely.
A a perfume B some perfume C a bottle of perfume
- I don't usually buy in the morning, but I did this morning. There was an interesting story in it.
A a paper B paper C some paper
- 'Why is Jane crying?' 'She's just had'
A some bad news B a bad news C a bad new
- Jake is really happy. He's got in a multi-national company. It's a big change from his old one.
A new job B a new work C a new job
- I've got to do tonight, so I can't come to the cinema with you.
A work B some work C a work

EXERCISE 3. Select the correct option.

- 'Did you hear noise / a noise just now?' 'No, I didn't hear anything.' (a noise is correct)
- a If you want to know the news, you can read paper / a paper.
b I want to print some documents, but the printer is out of paper / papers.
- a Light / A light comes from the sun.
b I thought there was somebody in the house because there was light / a light on inside.
- a I was in a hurry this morning. I didn't have time / a time for breakfast.
b 'Did you have a good holiday?' 'Yes, we had wonderful time / a wonderful time.'
- This is nice room / a nice room. Did you decorate it yourself?

- 6 Sue was very helpful. She gave us some very useful advice / advices.
- 7 Did you have nice weather / a nice weather when you were away?
- 8 We were very unfortunate. We had bad luck / a bad luck.
- 9 Is it difficult to find a work / job at the moment?
- 10 Our travel / journey from Paris to Moscow by train was very tiring.
- 11 When the fire alarm rang, there was total chaos / a total chaos.
- 12 I had to buy a bread / some bread because I wanted to make some sandwiches.
- 13 Bad news don't / doesn't make people happy.
- 14 Your hair is / Your hairs are too long. You should have it / them cut.
- 15 The damage / The damages caused by the storm will cost a lot to repair.

EXERCISE 4. Write OK in the blank if there's no correction to perform on the italicised verb in each sentence; otherwise, write the correction in the blank.

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| 1 Dr Darsee's present whereabouts <i>is</i> unknown. | _____ |
| 2 Phenomena such as sun spots <i>have</i> puzzled scientists for centuries. | _____ |
| 3 Over the last decade the company's overheads <i>has</i> increased dramatically. | _____ |
| 4 The research data <i>was</i> collected during the period 12th-29th July 2012. | _____ |
| 5 Congratulations <i>goes</i> to Ricky Branch for his excellent exam results. | _____ |
| 6 The coastal surroundings of the village <i>is</i> particularly attractive. | _____ |
| 7 He feels that the media <i>have</i> criticised him unfairly. | _____ |
| 8 Further particulars about the house <i>is</i> available from the owner. | _____ |
| 9 People <i>says</i> the house is haunted. | _____ |

EXERCISE 5. Complete these extracts from news articles with a singular or plural form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 The outskirts of our cities (*have*) benefited from the new out-of-town shopping centres that (*have*) recently been built. Around a third of the population regularly (*shop*) out of town.
- 2 On average, 25 litres of water (*be*) used each day per household and as the population (*expect*) higher living standards, this figure will rise.
- 3 Some 30% of the office space in London (*be*) presently empty and the Department for Employment (*blame*) high property prices.
- 4 Three centimetres (*be*) all that separated the first two runners in last night's 10,000 metres and the sports club (*have*) declared the race a dead-heat.
- 5 The research group now (*admit*) that the criteria they used (*be*) not totally reliable, and that the figure of 85% (*be*) exaggerated.
- 6 Following last week's major art theft from the Arcon Art Gallery, the premises (*be*) searched by police last night and the owner's belongings (*have*) been taken away for further inspection.
- 7 A survey of the opinions of students (*show*) that economics (*be*) the least popular university subject. However, 90% of the economics students surveyed (*believe*) that their courses are well taught.
- 8 Sufferers from diabetes (*have*) welcomed the launch by Federex of a new drug to combat the disease. The company (*say*) that earnings from the drug (*be*) to be put back into further research.