

## 2 Singular or plural?

### 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a There are several problem with this idea.  
b There are several problems with this idea.
- 2 a Many charity organisations provide a great deal of help.  
b Many charity organisation provides a great deal of help.

If you use a plural noun, you must use a plural verb. The verb must 'agree' with the noun:

*In my country there are very few cars that use leaded petrol.* (plural verb + plural noun)  
*I like studying during the day but my friend prefers studying at night.* (singular noun + singular verb)

We use a plural noun with:

- plural verbs: *are, were, have, do, play, etc.*: *There are a lot of books on the table.*
- numbers greater than one: *30 cars, 100 students*
- *many*: *It is annoying that so many buses drive past because they are full.*
- *the number of*: *The number of buses on our roads has increased each year.*

★ Note that we use a plural noun but a singular verb after *the number of*.

We use a singular noun with:

- singular verbs: *is, was, has, does, plays, etc.*: *There is only one bedroom in the flat.*
- *a/an or one*: *a car, one student*

★ Note that some nouns can look plural but are singular (*news, mathematics*) and some nouns have a different form in the plural (*children, men, women, people*).

### 2 Correct the mistake below.

The number of woman studying science increased dramatically last year.



The number of ..... dramatically last year.

### 3 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

- 1 The *child*s / *children* are playing in the street.
- 2 The number of *men* / *man* studying science has decreased.
- 3 There are a lot of *persons* / *people* in my class.
- 4 I enjoyed studying mathematics a lot; I found *it* / *them* very interesting.
- 5 The news *were* / *was* very upsetting.
- 6 How many *classes* / *class* do you have today?
- 7 A *person* / *people* I really admire is my uncle.
- 8 My father *watch* / *watches* a lot of sport on TV.