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 ..... dramatically last year.

3 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

1 The *childs* / *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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS