Unit 61 One and ones

A

We can use **one** instead of repeating a singular countable noun and **ones** instead of repeating a plural noun when it is clear from the context what we are talking about:

- 'Can I get you a drink?' 'It's okay, I've already got **one**.' (= a drink)
- I think his best poems are his early **ones**. (= poems)

We don't use **one/ones** instead of an uncountable noun:

- If you need any more paper, I'll bring you some. (*not* ...I'll bring you one/ones.)
- I asked him to get apple juice, but he got orange. (*not* ...but he got orange one/ones.)

We can't use **ones** without defining precisely which group of things we are talking about. Instead, we use **some**. Compare:

- 'We need new curtains.' 'Okay, let's buy *green* **ones** this time./...**ones** *with flowers on*/...*those* **ones**.' *and*
- 'We need new curtains.' 'Okay, let's buy **some**.' (*not* Okay, let's buy ones.)

B

We don't use **one/ones** after nouns used as adjectives:

- I thought my key was in my trouser pocket, but it was in my **coat** pocket. (*not* ...my coat one.)

Instead of using **one/ones** after possessive determiners (**my**, **your**, **her**, etc.) we prefer **mine**, **yours**, **hers**, etc. However, a possessive determiner + **one/ones** is often heard in informal speech:

- I'd really like a watch like **yours**. (*or* '...like your one' in informal speech)

We usually use **ones** to refer to things rather than people:

- We need two people to help. We could ask those men over there. (*not* ... ask those ones...)

However, **ones** is more likely to be used in comparative sentences to refer to groups of people:

- Older students seem to work harder than younger **ones**. (*or* ...than younger students.)

Notice also that we use **ones** to refer to people in **the little ones** (= small children), **(your) loved ones** (= usually close family), **(one of) the lucky ones**.

C

We can leave out **one/ones** –

☆ after **which**:

- When we buy medicines, we have no way of knowing *which* (**ones**) contain sugar.

☆ after superlatives:

- Look at that pumpkin! It's the *biggest* (**one**) I've seen this year.

☆ after **this**, **that**, **these**, and **those**:

- The last test I did was quite easy, but some parts of *this* (**one**) are really difficult.
- Help yourself to grapes. *These* (**ones**) are the sweetest, but *those* (**ones**) taste best. (Note that some people think 'those/these ones' is incorrect, particularly in formal English.)

☆ after **either**, **neither**, **another**, **each**, **the first/second/last**, (etc.):

- Karl pointed to the paintings and said I could take *either* (**one**). (*or* ...either of them.)
- She cleared away the cups, washed *each* (**one**) thoroughly, and put them on the shelf.

D

We don't leave out **one/ones** –

☆ after **the**, **the only**, **the main**, and **every**:

- When you cook clams you shouldn't eat *the* **ones** that don't open.
- After I got the glasses home, I found that *every* **one** was broken.

☆ after adjectives:

- My shoes were so uncomfortable that I had to go out today and buy some *new* **ones**.

However, after colour adjectives we can often leave out **one/ones** in answers:

- 'Have you decided which jumper to buy?' 'Yes, I think I'll take the *blue* (**one**).'

and we don't include **ones** when we use adjectives in place of nouns to refer to groups of people, as in **the affluent**, **the disadvantaged**, **the elderly**, **the homeless**, **the low-paid**, **the poor**, **the privileged**, **the rich**, **the wealthy**, **the young**, etc. (But when these are ordinary adjectives, we can use **ones**, e.g. These are the **privileged ones**; the other children aren't so lucky.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

61.1 If necessary, correct these sentences. If they are already correct, write ✓. (A)

1 Chris brought in the wood and put ones on the fire.
2 Normally I don't like wearing a scarf, but it was so cold I put one on.
3 'We've run out of potatoes.' 'I'll get ones when I go to the shops.'
4 We haven't got lemon tea, but you could have mint one instead.
5 Those aren't your gloves. You must have picked up the wrong ones.
6 'What kind of cakes do you like best?' 'Ones with cream inside.'
7 I couldn't fit all the boxes in the car, so I had to leave ones behind and pick it up later.
8 Most of the trees in our garden are less than 10 years old but ones are much older than that.

61.2 If appropriate, replace the underlined words or phrases with one or ones. If it is not possible or is unlikely, write No after the sentence. (A & B)

1 I answered most of the questions, but had to miss out some very difficult questions.
2 The female violinists in the orchestra outnumber the male violinists by about three to one.
3 He used to work for a finance company, but he's moved to an insurance company.
4 The issue discussed at the meeting was an extremely complicated issue.
5 'I'll just clean my shoes before we go out.' 'Can you do my shoes, too, please?'
6 Many people are happy about the new road being built, but there are some angry people, too.
7 'Was it these earrings you wanted?' 'No, the earrings on the left of those, please.'
8 Dave is really good at taking photos of old buildings. There's an excellent photo of a local church in his office.
9 'Are you picking Jo up at the train station?' 'No, she's arriving at the bus station.'
10 On one channel was a war film and on the other was a horror film, so I turned the TV off.
11 There are lots of gloves here. Are these your gloves?

61.3 If the sentence is correct without the underlined one/ones, put brackets around it (as in 1). If it is not correct without one/ones, write ✓(as in 2). (C & D)

1 The children had eaten all the pizza and were still hungry so I had to make them another (one).
2 I drove around the houses, looking for the ones with 'For Sale' notices outside. ✓
3 I'm not keen on those ones with the cherry on top. I think I'll have a chocolate biscuit instead.
4 I like both of these jackets. I don't know which one to choose.
5 The vases are all handmade and every one looks different.
6 Each winter seemed to be colder than the last one.
7 There are many excellent food markets in town but the main one is near the port.
8 She tried on lots of pairs of shoes and finally chose the purple ones.
9 The books were so disorganised that I soon lost track of which ones I had already counted.
10 I went to a lot of interesting talks at the conference, but the best one was given by a Chinese professor.
11 Mark drove because he was the only one who knew where the restaurant was.
12 Can you remember where you bought this one? I'd like to get one myself.
13 You can buy quite a good guitar for under €200, but the most expensive ones cost thousands.
14 He's just bought a new bike and has offered to give me his old one.

LIVEWORKSHEETS