

Plural nouns; one and ones

1 We normally form plural nouns by adding -s:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
a cup	→ some cups
one student	→ three students
the cat	→ the cats

2 one and ones

Sometimes we use **one** instead of repeating a singular noun:

I'm going to buy a drink. Would you like one?

Our house is the one with the red door.

Or, we use **ones** instead of a plural noun:

Shall I buy the red apples or the green ones?

These biscuits are cheaper than those ones.

3 We often use **Which one ...?** and **Which ones ...?** in questions:



Shop assistant: *Which one would you like, the black dress or the pink one?*

Mary: *I'd like the black one, please.*

Jim: *I like the black and white photographs. Which ones do you like? The black and white ones or the colour ones?*

Susan: *I prefer the colour ones.*

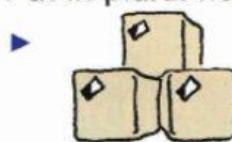
4 But we form some plural nouns differently:

man	→ men	+ -es
woman	→ women	bus → buses
child	→ children	kiss → kisses
person	→ people	wish → wishes
foot	→ feet	watch → watches
tooth	→ teeth	match → matches
sheep	→ sheep	box → boxes
mouse	→ mice	potato → potatoes
fish	→ fish	tomato → tomatoes
-y	→ -ies	-f/-fe → -ves
family	→ families	loaf → loaves
city	→ cities	wife → wives
country	→ countries	knife → knives

(For more information on plural nouns, see Appendix 1 on page 242.)

Practice

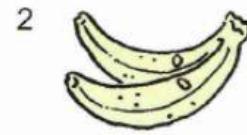
A Put in plural nouns to describe the pictures.



Some boxes



Some



Two



Some



Three



Some



Some



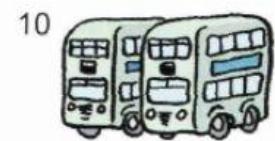
Four



Some



Some



Two



Two

B Tick (✓) the correct plural forms and cross out the wrong ones.

► knives ✓	tooths	matches	wishs
► matchs	citys	cities	men
countries	potatoes	teeth	familyls
wishes	tomatos	mouses	wifes
wives	potatos	countryrs	tomatoes
mans	mice	knifes	families

C Rewrite the sentence in brackets (), replacing one of the words with *one* or *ones*.

► He's just bought a new suit.
(It's a blue suit.) It's a blue one.....

► A: Who is your favourite actor?
B: (The actor that I like best is Joe Late.) The one that I like best is Joe Late.....

1 I'm going to buy an orange juice.
(Would you like an orange juice?)

2 The chocolate cakes are popular.
(But the strawberry cakes are nicer)

3 A: Which house do you like?
B: (I like the house with the red door)

4 I bought a blue carpet last time.
(This time I want a green carpet)

5 English is a difficult language.
(There isn't an easy language)

6 A: Where did you put the photos?
B: (Do you mean the photos that we took in Turkey?)

.....

D Eric and Ellen are buying things for their new apartment. Complete the dialogue with *one* or *ones*.

Ellen: Here's the china department. We need some cups.

Eric: Do we want large (►) ones..... or small (1)..... ?

Ellen: Small (2)..... are best.

Eric: But I like tea in a large cup.

Ellen: OK, put six small cups and a large (3)..... in the basket.

Eric: What about a teapot? There's a metal (4)..... and a nice china (5)..... Which (6)..... do you like?

Ellen: I prefer the china (7).....

Eric: It's similar to the little cups but it's not like my big (8).....

Ellen: Well, it doesn't have to be exactly the same. Now, we also need knives.

Eric: Can't we use the (9)..... that my mother gave us?

Ellen: Well, I suppose the big (10)..... for bread is all right, but we certainly need some little (11)..... for vegetables and a sharp (12)..... for meat.

Eric: All right. Where are the knives?