

# 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.*

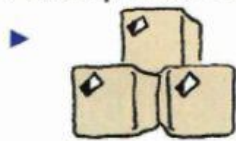
- 4 But we form some plural nouns differently:

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 .....



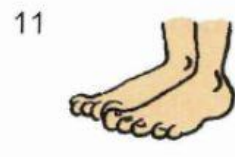
Some .....



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	familys
wishes	tomatos	mouses	wifes
wives	potatos	countrys	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?