

Plurals of Countable and Uncountable Nouns

1



Listen and repeat.



Listen and repeat.

- bananas, dogs, cats, books
- bus – buses, hairbrush – hairbrushes, fox – foxes, dress – dresses, watch – watches, tomato – tomatoes
- baby – babies, lady – ladies
- leaf – leaves, wife – wives
- child – children, foot – feet, fish – fish, mouse – mice, man – men, tooth – teeth, sheep – sheep, ox – oxen, woman – women, goose – geese, deer – deer, louse – lice

A. Countable nouns are nouns which can be counted. Most nouns take **-s** in the plural.

B. Nouns ending in **-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, -o** take **-es** in the plural.

BUT

radio – radios

piano – pianos

photo – photos

video – videos

C. Nouns ending in a **consonant + y** → ~~y~~ + **-ies**

BUT

Nouns ending in a **vowel (a, e, o, u) + y** → **-s** toy – toys day – days

D. Nouns ending in **-f, -fe** → ~~f~~ ~~fe~~ + **-ves**

BUT

roof – roofs, chief – chiefs, handkerchief – handkerchiefs, proof – proofs

E. Some nouns form irregular plurals.

1



Write the plurals in the correct column. Listen and check. Listen and repeat.

radio	lady	man	child	handkerchief	fly	body	life
tomato	leaf	watch	fox	kiss	sheep	shelf	bench
-s	-es	-ies	-ves	irregular			
radios,	tomatoes,	ladies,	loaves,	men,			

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Pronunciation



Listen and repeat.

/s/		/ɪz/		/z/	
after /t/, /k/, /p/, /t/, /θ/		after /s/, /ks/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /z/, /ʒ/		after other sounds	
cliffs	lollipops	foxes	bridges	pens	meals
proofs	spots	brushes	roses	babies	records
books	baths	churches	mirages	songs	rooms

2



Write the plurals in the correct column. Listen and check. Listen and repeat.

cat	class	roof	fork	leaf	lemon
beach	cup	girl	shirt	nose	peach
boy	desk	potato	pen	bus	box
/s/		/ɪz/		/z/	
cats,		beaches,		boys,	

F. Some nouns are uncountable. They have no plural. **A / An** is not used with uncountable nouns. **Some** is used with them. These nouns include:

food/drinks:	butter, bread, meat, cheese, water, tea, coffee, milk, lemonade, chocolate, salt, pepper, fish, etc.
materials:	paper, wood, silver, gold, iron, etc.
abstract nouns:	peace, anger, love, etc.
many others:	money, snow, soap, furniture, petrol, oil, information, news, etc.

G. a + consonant sound (b, c, d, f, g, etc.)

a pen

an + vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u) an apple

H. **Some** is also used with countable nouns in the plural.

I've got **some** eggs.

3

Underline the correct item.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 a / <u>an</u> orange | 4 a / <u>an</u> chair | 7 a / <u>some</u> furniture | 10 <u>an</u> / <u>some</u> apples |
| 2 a / <u>some</u> gold | 5 a / <u>some</u> children | 8 a / <u>an</u> umbrella | 11 a / <u>an</u> piano |
| 3 <u>an</u> / <u>some</u> oil | 6 a / <u>some</u> water | 9 a / <u>some</u> butter | 12 a / <u>some</u> leaves |

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- 4 Write *a/an* or *some*. Then write **C** for countable or **U** for uncountable. Say two more countable and two more uncountable nouns.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 .. <i>a</i> .. berry .. <i>C</i> .. | 6 money ... | 11 news ... | 16 water ... |
| 2 cheese ... | 7 butterfly ... | 12 shirt ... | 17 chair ... |
| 3 woman ... | 8 orange ... | 13 apple ... | 18 tea ... |
| 4 paper ... | 9 bread ... | 14 salt ... | 19 leaf ... |
| 5 butter ... | 10 boy ... | 15 chocolate ... | 20 bottle ... |



Guess which one

Which is my shopping bag? Ask each other questions to find out.



Student A: There is some cheese, some milk, some juice and a lemon in my bag.
 Student B: Is it bag C?
 Student A: Yes, it is.

- I. **Adjectives describe nouns.** It is a **new** car. (What kind of car is it? A new car.)
Adjectives take no -s in the plural. a **new** record – two **new** records

- 5 Rewrite the sentences in the plural.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 There is a wooden chair in the kitchen.
<i>There are some wooden chairs in the kitchen.</i> | 6 She is a clever student.
..... |
| 2 She is an old lady.
..... | 7 I have got a new hat.
..... |
| 3 I have got a big schoolbag.
..... | 8 She is a famous actress.
..... |
| 4 He is a tall boy.
..... | 9 There is a white goose in the garden.
..... |
| 5 There is a pretty butterfly on the window.
..... | 10 He has got a heavy suitcase.
..... |