

Are there any special times I should use *the*?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a In the USA this situation is totally different.
b In USA this situation is totally different.
- 2 a The table shows number of people working in Britain in 1976.
b The table shows the number of people working in Britain in 1976.

We use *the*

- with countries or places where the name refers to a group of islands or states: *the United States, the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates, the UK*
- with superlatives: *the best, the longest, the highest*
- with cardinal numbers: *the first, the second, the third*
- when there is only one in the world: *the environment, the internet, the sun*
- to refer to the only one in this particular area: *the government, the police, the river*
- in the phrase: *the same as*

We don't use *the*

- with a single country or place: *America, England, China*
- to talk about something in general. We use the plural if we are talking about something in general; we use *the* to identify one specific example. Compare:
People with reading difficulties often have problems with numbers.
The number eight is considered lucky in some countries.

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Complete the sentences below using the words in brackets. Decide whether or not to use *the*, or whether to use the plural.

- 1 The main advantage of is that it gives us access to information from all over the world. (*internet*)
- 2 My father has fished in all over Australia. (*river*)
- 3 Life in is very different from life in my country. (*America*)
- 4 According to the graph, of people moving into the city each year has more than doubled. (*number*)
- 5 The total figure for 1976 was as the total figure for 1982. (*same*)
- 6 Obesity is much more common in than in my country. (*USA*)
- 7 The graph shows that increase occurred in 1999. (*greatest*)
- 8 travels around at a speed of 3,700 kilometres per hour. (*moon, earth*)

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.
- *alan* 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 woman studying science increased dramatically last year.



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.

Which nouns don't have a plural form?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a I don't have many time to complete my assignment.
b I don't have much time to complete my assignment.
- 2 a When I did a search on my computer I could only find a few informations about the topic.
b When I did a search on my computer I could only find a little information about the topic.

Some nouns in English are 'uncountable'. This means they do not have a plural form. Some common uncountable nouns are: *advice, advertising, food, furniture, garbage, information, knowledge, money, shopping, time, traffic, travel*.

With uncountable nouns, you must use:

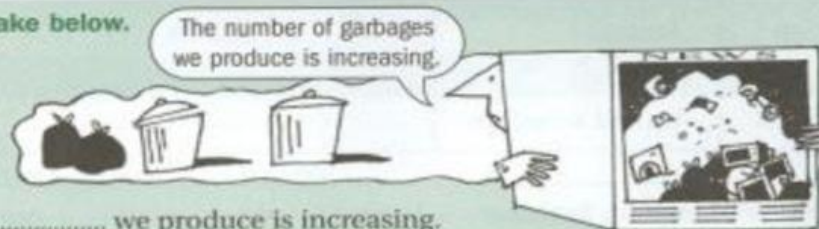
- the singular form: *food, information, money*
- a little / amount of / much / some: *How **much** **money** do you have?*
*The **amount of** **traffic** on the roads is increasing each year.*
- a singular verb: *There **was** already a little **furniture** in the flat.*

If a noun is uncountable, you cannot use:

- a plural form: *advices, furnitures, garbages, informations, knowledges*
- an / a: *an advice, a garbage, a knowledge*
- a few / many / number of: *a few shopping, many traffic, the number of knowledge*
- a number: *three travels, four furniture*
- a plural verb: *There were a little furniture in the flat.*

☆ If you want to add a number to an uncountable noun, you can use *a piece of / some / a few pieces of*: *a piece of advice, three pieces of furniture, a few pieces of garbage*

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Correct the mistakes in these sentences. There may be more than one mistake in each sentence.

- 1 My tutor was very helpful; he gave me one very good advice about how to study.
- 2 I was surprised by the number of times it took us to reach the castle.
- 3 You need a great deal of knowledges to become a doctor.
- 4 The informations we were given by the tour guide were not very helpful.
- 5 When we visited the park, we were upset to see so many garbages left there.
- 6 We arrived late because there were so many traffic on the road.
- 7 I can't wait to visit the market and do a few shopping.
- 8 The furnitures in the hotel room were quite old but they were very comfortable.

TEST 1

1 Underline the correct word or phrase in the following sentences.

- 1 The garbage *is / are* collected every Tuesday.
- 2 Advertising in the school newsletter *is / are* a waste of time.
- 3 A lot of food in restaurants *is / are* thrown away every day.
- 4 Many *idea / ideas* for new products never reach the manufacturing stage.
- 5 My sister gave me lots of *advice / advices* that *was / were* very useful.
- 6 Over three hundred *student / students* signed the petition for a new study area.
- 7 There are a lot of *similarity / similarities* between your country and mine.
- 8 There *is / are* more women on my course than men.

2 Fill in the gaps using one of the words from the box. Decide whether you need to add *the*.

Rank	Country	Number of people accessing the internet per 100,000 people
#1	New Zealand	79.306
#2	Iceland	76.027
#3	Sweden	75.539
#4	Malta	75.527
#5	Faroe Islands	68.140
#6	Greenland	67.406
#7	Korea, South	64.925
#8	Australia	64.709
#9	Finland	62.914
#10	United Kingdom	62.209

Faroe Islands	Internet	largest	list	Malta	number one
same	Sweden	table	United Kingdom	United States	world

- (1)..... shows the top ten countries in terms of internet usage.
 (2)..... country is New Zealand, which has (3)..... number of internet users. (4)..... is at the bottom of (5)..... . Surprisingly, (6)..... does not feature in the top ten at all. However, a little-known group of islands called (7)..... is ranked fifth in (8)..... . (9)..... and (10)..... are ranked third and fourth. Both have almost (11)..... number of users, with over 75,500 people per 100,000 accessing (12)..... .

- 3 Look at the following advertisement and fill in the gap in each question using one of the phrases in the box.

How many How much Is Are Is there Are there

Room for rent in share house close to bus. Must help to pay bills (electricity, etc.). For more details phone: 376 8900

- 1 food included in the rent?
- 2 a lot of traffic in the area?
- 3 any other transport nearby?
- 4 does the electricity usually cost?
- 5 any pets in the house?
- 6 money will I need to pay each week?
- 7 people are living in the house?
- 8 a lot of furniture in the room?

- 4 Fill in the blanks using a word from the box. Make any changes necessary.

advice bird child company house person plastic transport

- 1 The travel agency was hopeless; they didn't even give us one useful
- 2 The number of new being built in our area has doubled.
- 3 Most large operate on a global scale nowadays.
- 4 Many believe that globalisation has both advantages and disadvantages.
- 5 Today, in my country, school-age do not exercise as much as in the past.
- 6 The blades of the fan are made of
- 7 There are several kinds of in my home town but my favourite is the ferry.
- 8 There has been an increase in the number of native killed by cats this year.

- 5 Correct the 14 mistakes in the text below.

The globalisation has had an enormous impact on many part of the world. Nowadays, even in some of most remote parts of world, we can connect to internet and conduct business. However, they is advantage and disadvantage to this. One disadvantages, for example, is that the local culture and language can be affected. It can also mean that local businesses has to reduce their prices to compete with bigger overseas companies. However, there are advantages; for example, globalisation can bring more business to a small area, which is good for the local economy. It may also help to stop young person moving away from more remote area. If a young person have the chance to run a business and be successful no matter where he or she lives, then perhaps more people will choose to stay in these smaller communities. It also means that news from around the world are available to everyone, and this can also reduce the feeling of isolation.