19 Countable and uncountable nouns

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1 a International aid is very important after natural disasters.
  b International aids are very important after natural disasters.
2 a Every country has its own customs and behaviours.
  b Every country has its own customs and behaviour.

Many common nouns in English are uncountable – they do not have a plural form and they are followed by a singular verb form. These include: *aid, behaviour, clothing, employment, equipment, furniture, help, information, pollution, software, transport:* ***A lot of information is*** *available on the internet.*

Nouns ending *-ing* to describe an activity are also uncountable: *advertising, farming, shopping, swimming, training,* etc.:
This type of ***farming*** *causes damage to the environment.*

Some words have countable [C] and uncountable [U] forms used in different contexts:
He has no ***work experience****.* (U: knowledge and skills you gain by doing something)
Going into hospital is often ***a stressful experience****.* (C: a particular event or situation)
How much time *do you spend commuting?* (U: hours, minutes, etc.)
How many times *do you go each week?* (C: occasions)
The waiters all wear ***local dress****.* (U: clothes for a particular context)
She had two bridesmaids in pink ***dresses****.* (C: a piece of women's clothing)
Also: *We often go walking in* ***the country****.* (singular: the countryside)
He's visited a number of ***countries****.* (C: a nation)

2 Correct the mistake below.



I didn't know we ..... .

3 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

1 The shop sells children's *clothings/clothing* and footwear.
2 In developing *countries/country,* malaria still kills millions each year.
3 She has 20 years of *experiences/experience* as a nurse.
4 The company sells specialist *softwares/software* for computer-aided design.
5 These patients need injections several *times/time* a day.
6 It has excellent facilities, with all the latest *equipments/equipment.*
7 Cigarette *advertisings/advertising* has been banned in many countries.
8 How often do you use public *transports/transport*?

LIVEWORKSHEETS