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THIRD EDITION



Grammar Practice

for Intermediate Students

with key

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GRAMMAR

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Nouns and determiners

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Nouns and determiners

1 Singular and plural nouns

- Nouns can be countable (*one book, two tables*) or uncountable (*some bread, some information*).
- Countable nouns can be singular or plural. To make a noun plural, we usually add -s or -es: *car → cars bus → buses*
- Some plural nouns are irregular: *child → children foot → feet man → men mouse → mice person → people tooth → teeth woman → women*
- These nouns have the same form in the singular and plural: *aircraft → aircraft deer → deer fish → fish sheep → sheep*
- Some nouns end in -s in both the singular and plural: *crossroads → crossroads means → means series → series species → species*
- Some nouns end in -s, but are singular/uncountable and take a singular verb: *athletics, gymnastics, maths, news, physics: Maths is my best subject.*
- Some nouns are always plural and take a plural verb: *belongings, clothes, goods, surroundings: Her clothes are always fashionable.*
- These nouns refer to one thing made of two similar parts and take a plural verb: *glasses, jeans, scissors, shorts, tights, trousers: These trousers are a bit tight.* To refer to a single item, we use *a pair of: a pair of jeans*
- These nouns refer to a group of people: *army, audience, class, family, government, group, public, staff, team*. We can use the singular form of the noun with a singular verb if we see them as a single unit, or with a plural verb to refer to members of the group: *My family lives (or live) in Prague.*

▶▶ See Appendix 1: Spelling rules for plural nouns, page 169.

PRACTICE

1a Complete the sentences. Use the plural of the nouns in brackets.

- 0 Could you get the *knives* and *forks*, please? (knife, fork)
- 1 The first two of books were about famous and the next two were about famous (series, woman, man)
- 2 in this region eat and (wolf, deer, sheep)
- 3 Different prefer different of communication. (person, means)
- 4 The largest of our is now very rare and many other of butterfly are also becoming rarer. (butterfly, species)
- 5 That museum has a wonderful collection of and old (photo, aircraft)
- 6 There are some nice for in this catalogue. (toy, child)

1b Write sentences. Use the present simple of *be*.

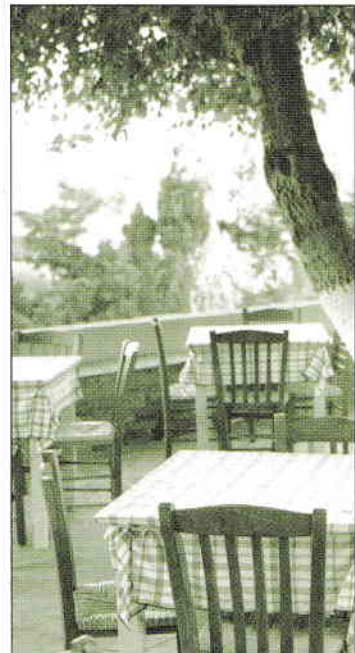
- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 0 | all her clothes / black | <i>All her clothes are black.</i> |
| 1 | my sunglasses / very good | |
| 2 | all her belongings / in that bag | |
| 3 | tonight's audience / very small | |
| 4 | this pair of jeans / my favourite | |
| 5 | the news / very worrying | |
| 6 | the electrical goods here / quite cheap | |
| 7 | biology / a fascinating subject | |
| 8 | these scissors / sharp? | |

1c Complete the sentences. Use the present simple of the verbs in brackets. There may be more than one possible answer.

- My running group *trains* on Wednesdays. (train)
- The staff at the sports centre very hard. (work)
- The government to encourage more sport. (want)
- Athletics very popular in Britain. (be)
- My family a lot of sport. (do)
- My brother's football team usually very well. (play)
- Their colours are red and white. Their shirts are white and their shorts red. (be)
- They're just a local team. The public to watch them. (not pay)
- My class at college some excellent athletes. (have)

1d Circle the correct answer.

- The surroundings *was* / *were* beautiful and the food was delicious.
- How much *does this* / *do these* pair of tights cost?
- Are you looking for your black jeans? *It's* / *They're* on your bed.
- I'm so tired! My feet *hurt* / *hurts*.
- Physics *is* / *are* the scientific study of physical objects and substances, and natural forces such as light and heat.
- I didn't like his glasses. *It was* / *They were* too big.
- This programme's part of a series. Have you seen the others in *it* / *them*?
- He hates Maths. He can't understand *it* / *them*.
- I bought some nice clothes yesterday. *It wasn't* / *They weren't* expensive.



2 Countable and uncountable nouns

- Most common nouns are countable. They have a singular and plural form (e.g. *box* → *boxes*). We can use singular countable nouns with *a/an*: **a box**
- Uncountable nouns often refer to things we think of as a single mass, e.g. substances, liquids and gases, and abstract ideas. They don't have a plural form and we can't use them with *a/an*. They are followed by a singular verb: *I like **cheese**. I need **some information**. **Accommodation is expensive**.*
- These are some common uncountable nouns: *accommodation, advice, furniture, homework, information, luggage, money, news, progress, traffic, travel, work*.
- We can use countable noun + *of* to count uncountable nouns: *a piece of chocolate/cake/cheese a piece of advice/information/evidence a slice of bread a sheet/piece of paper a bottle of water a carton of juice a can of cola a cup of coffee a litre of water a kilo of sugar 500 grams of cheese two metres of cable*
- Some nouns can be countable or uncountable, with a change in meaning. The countable noun usually refers to one particular object or amount. The uncountable noun usually refers to something in general.

Countable noun	Uncountable noun
a paper (= a newspaper)	paper (= the substance)
a glass (= for drinking from)	glass (= the substance)
a chicken (= the animal)	chicken (= the meat)
a coffee/a tea (= one cup of it)	coffee/tea (= the drink in general)
an ice cream (= an amount you buy)	ice cream (= in general)
a hair (= one single piece of it)	hair (= all the hair on your head)
a noise (= one particular noise)	noise (= in general)
a room (= one room in a building)	room (= space)

PRACTICE

- 2a Complete the table. Write **C** after the countable nouns and **U** after the uncountable nouns.

coin	C	bread		furniture	
money	U	electricity		cupboard	
suitcase		plastic		magazine	
luggage		machine		article	
advice		progress		news	
career		homework		weather	
office		college		accident	
information		project		storm	
piece		lecture		music	

2b Complete the conversation. Use *a, an* or *-*.

- A: Can I help you?
 B: Yes. I'm looking for (0) accommodation in the centre of town. I'd like (1) quiet place. I don't like (2) noise. I'm staying in (3) guesthouse on (4) very noisy street at the moment. I hate (5) traffic, so I want to move.
 A: You could try this guesthouse. It's on a very quiet road.
 B: Oh, Russell House. I saw (6) advertisement for it in (7) brochure. It looks nice. Do they serve breakfast?
 A: Yes. And you can make (8) tea and (9) coffee in your room. Would you like this brochure? It's got (10) information about all the guesthouses in the town.
 B: Thank you very much.

2c Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

can carton cup grams kilos ~~litres~~ metres piece (x3) slices

- 0 We need three *litres* of paint for this room.
 1 I'm going to have a of that chocolate cake.
 2 There's a of milk in the fridge.
 3 I usually have two of bread for breakfast.
 4 Let me give you a of advice.
 5 Could you get me a of cola from the shop?
 6 I'd like 450 of cheese, please.
 7 I've bought two of rice.
 8 Would you like a of coffee?
 9 How many of material do you need for your skirt?
 10 She wrote something on a of paper.

2d Circle the correct answer.

- A: What are you looking for?
 B: (0) *A furniture* / (*Furniture*) for my room. I need a chair and a small table. There isn't (1) *a room* / *room* for a big one.
 A: This one with the glass top is nice. I like (2) *a glass* / *glass* on tables.
 A: Would you like (3) *an ice cream* / *ice cream* from the shop? They have some nice ones.
 B: No, thanks. I don't like (4) *an ice cream* / *ice cream* very much. But could you get me (5) *a paper* / *paper*, please? I want to look at the job advertisements. I'm looking for a part-time job, you know. I need (6) *a money* / *money* for my trip.
 A: I heard (7) *a strange* / *strange* noise next door. Did you hear it?
 B: No. There's no one next door. It's just (8) *an empty* / *empty* room!