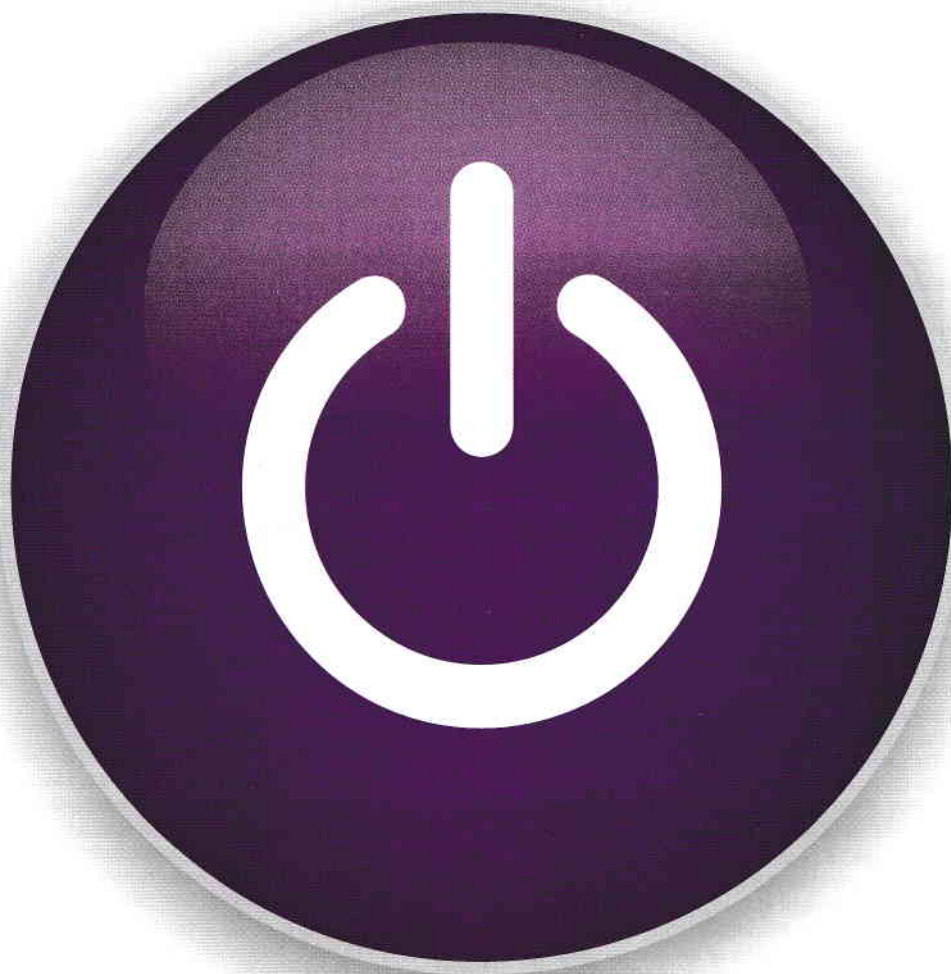


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DISASTERS

PRE-START + DIAGNOSTIC TEST

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58 Linking sentences and clauses

not only ... but also, either ... or, neither ... nor, when, after, if, although
It wasn't Tom who told me, it was Mary.

256

59 Subordinate clauses (1) time, reason, result, etc.

Can you look after the baby until I get back?
I was so busy that I forgot to call you.
She acts as though she hasn't a care in the world.

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60 Subordinate clauses (2) contrast and concession

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64 have/get something done

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We got them to give us a refund.
I'll have my secretary email you the details.

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insist on, a demand for, keen on, concerned about, etc.

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be annoyed at finding/to find, insist on/that
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Pronunciation table

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Differences between British and American English ► page 368

1 Gender

Nouns do not have grammatical gender in English. To show gender in job nouns we have to say *a female/woman doctor*, *a male doctor*, etc. A few nouns show gender by their suffix, usually masculine gender, such as *businessman*. A lot of people avoid these nouns now, especially if referring to a woman, and prefer a form with no obvious gender, e.g. *chair*, or to match the suffix to the person, e.g. *chairwoman*:

That's the view of Sheila Davison, chair(woman) of the Institute of Public Relations.

2 Nouns ending in -s

Some uncountable nouns end in -s but take a singular verb, for example

- some illnesses: *measles, mumps*
- sport and games: *aerobics, gymnastics, darts*
- study/abstract ideas/emotions: *mathematics, politics, news, thanks, happiness*

Politics is a topic best avoided with people you don't know well.



A plural subject describing a specific measurement usually takes a singular verb:

✗ ~~*Two metres aren't particularly tall these days.*~~

✓ *Two metres isn't particularly tall these days.*

Twenty-four hours is a long time in politics. Ten miles is too far to walk.

A few nouns are more common in the plural form and take a plural verb, e.g. *goods, whereabouts, remains, stairs, proceeds*:

*The auction raised a lot of money and the **proceeds were** given to a children's charity.*

Some nouns refer to one object divided into two parts and take a plural verb,

e.g. *glasses, jeans, pyjamas, scales, scissors, spectacles, trousers*:

*Special **scissors are** used to cut this fabric.*

3 Noun–verb agreement

The verb usually agrees with the subject noun even if it is separated by prepositional phrases, relative clauses, brackets or commas:

*The **petrol station** across the road from the new shops **has** just cut its prices.*

However, if the verb is a long way from the subject and closer to a complement

(► Unit 42.1/2), the verb can agree with the complement. Compare:

*The **most exciting event** was the rowing finals.*

*The **most exciting event** in the Sydney Olympics for most British viewers **was/were** the rowing finals.*

The same can apply after *what* used to introduce a noun clause:

***What** the Board needs to finalise now **is/are** the terms of the redundancies.*

4 Two subjects/plural subject–verb agreement

We usually use a plural verb with two subjects linked by *and* or *both ... and*:

***Mum and Dad** were hoping that you'd join them this evening.*

***Both the doctor and the surgeon** have advised me to have the operation.*

However, we use a singular verb if we consider the two items as one single concept:

✗ ~~*Fish and chips are one of the most common English dishes.*~~

✓ *Fish and chips is one of the most common English dishes.*

Titles of books, films, etc. take a singular verb, even if they are plural nouns:

*Hitchcock's film '**The Birds**' is based on a story by Daphne du Maurier.*

5 Collective noun–verb agreement

Collective nouns refer to a group of people, animals or things, e.g. *family, government, group, staff, team, band, class*. A large number of proper nouns fall into this category, e.g. *the United Nations, British Airways, Microsoft Corporation*. We can usually use a singular or plural verb after these nouns. The choice can depend on how we think of the noun:

	SINGULAR VERB	PLURAL VERB
collective noun seen as a whole entity	<i>The family has a monthly income of \$2,000.</i>	
collective noun seen as a group of individuals		<i>The family are all gathering here for New Year.</i>
a + collective noun	<i>A team of inspectors is visiting the prison tomorrow.</i>	

We always use a plural verb for

- certain collective nouns, e.g. *police, people, cattle*:
The police are investigating his accusation of fraud.
- an adjective used as a collective noun (► Unit 12.5):
The middle-aged have a lot to offer employers.
- nouns such as *the majority/a number/a couple + of + plural noun*:
The majority of the people were pleased to see the government fall.

6 Countable and uncountable nouns

Some nouns can be countable or uncountable, but have different meanings:

COUNTABLE MEANING	UNCOUNTABLE MEANING
<i>I'd love a coffee,¹ please. (= a cup)</i>	<i>Do you drink coffee? (= the liquid)</i>
<i>I'll buy a chicken² for dinner tonight. (= the whole bird)</i>	<i>Would you like some chicken for dinner? (= a part/the dish)</i>
<i>This is an amazing drawing² by Leonardo. (= a picture)</i>	<i>My son is very good at drawing. (= the activity)</i>
<i>Someone threw a stone² at our window. (= one item)</i>	<i>The road crosses a flat landscape of scrub and stone. (= the material)</i>

¹ This applies to all drinks: *tea/a tea, cola/a cola, lemonade/a lemonade*

² Not all nouns of these types can be both countable and uncountable:

- ✗ *a beef, a mutton* ✓ *a duck/duck, a fish/fish, a lamb/lamb*
- ✗ *an art, a poetry* ✓ *a painting/painting, a sculpture/sculpture*
- ✗ *a wool, a cotton* ✓ *a paper/paper, a rock/rock*

7 Quantifying uncountable nouns

We can use words like *piece* and *bit* to make some uncountable nouns countable:

The Council will remove two pieces of unwanted furniture if desired.

Other common nouns used in this way are: *a slice of bread/meat/cheese/cake; an item of news/furniture/clothing; a lump of sugar/coal; a cup of coffee/tea, a pair of trousers/jeans.*

We can sometimes make an uncountable noun countable to express 'different types' of the noun:

Our new skincare cream contains several essential oils.

This is a soft cheese from the Pyrenees.

We can use articles with uncountable abstract nouns to refer to a specific feeling:

distrust → *a deep distrust, a distrust of lawyers* *love* → *an everlasting love, the love of music*

When we use nouns in this way, we use a singular verb:

A love of fashion and music is common amongst teenagers.

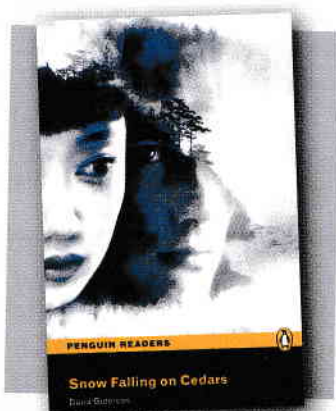
1 Complete sentences 1–10 with the correct form of a suitable verb. In sentences 11–15 add a, an or no article (-). If two answers are possible, put both.

- 1 Rickets a disease caused by a lack of vitamin D.
- 2 The 10,000 kilometres the longest walking competition in the Olympics.
- 3 Hollywood classic *The Women* showing at the London Film Festival this week.
- 4 Saudi Arabia, along with most of the oil-producing nations, voted to raise the price of crude oil again.
- 5 What he'd really like us to buy him for his birthday some new Nike trainers.
- 6 Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding definitely still the favourite of many British people!
- 7 My brother thinks that economics really interesting. I disagree.
- 8 That band always had a reputation for performing better in the studio than live.
- 9 Both my brother and sister lived in this town all their lives.
- 10 The local police interviewing several suspects in connection with the recent attacks.
- 11 I first felt the desire to visit Venice when looking at painting by Canaletto.
- 12 Where can I find information on late Renaissance Florentine artists?
- 13 There's nothing more delicious than lamb with mint sauce.
- 14 We developed passion for Baroque music at university.
- 15 It isn't a lack of courage that stops me taking part in extreme sports, it is anxiety about getting seriously injured.

2 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct words in italics. If both options are possible, choose both.

Snow Falling on Cedars

BY DAVID GUTERSON



This novel (0) *open* / *opens* in the courthouse of San Pedro, a small sleepy island off the Pacific coast of the north-west United States.

Underneath the courtroom windows, four tall narrow arches of (1) *leaded* / *a leaded* glass, (2) *drama* / *a drama* which will divide the island's communities (3) *is* / *are* unfolding. The defendant stands erect in the dock; the local press and the jurors await the start of this trial. Kabuo Miyamoto is accused of the murder of Carl Heine, a young fisherman. The alleged crime by a young man of Japanese descent stirs up the emotions of the islanders and questions their beliefs and their politics. It takes place in the 1950s – not many years (4) *has* / *have* passed since the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour and the horrors of World War II. Although the

Japanese on San Pedro (5) *was* / *were* eager to defend their adopted country against the country of their ancestors, a number of people in the community (6) *was* / *were* unable to forgive Japan its role in the war, and the trial causes their deeply-held prejudices to surface. 'Snow Falling on Cedars' (7) *is* / *are* not only one of the best mysteries of recent years, it also raises issues which affect us all. However, it ends with (8) *great* / *a great* optimism. David Guterson has succeeded in combining the best from both classic and populist American (9) *literatures* / *literature* into (10) *spellbinding* / *a spellbinding* work of art. Buy and read this beautiful novel.

3 Complete the sentences, using the words from the box. Use each word twice. Add an article or use the plural form if necessary. **2.02** Listen and check.

chair chicken drawing group love stone

- 1 Gerry threw into the pond and watched the water ripple outwards.
- 2 Who is going to be of the new finance committee?
- 3 Caleb owns a free-range farm so he allows his to run around wherever they like.
- 4 These days you don't have to be good at to be a successful artist.
- 5 Numerous of illegal immigrants have attempted to cross the border in the last few months.
- 6 Unfortunately for my waistline, I have of chocolate, especially in cakes!
- 7 For his art project, my son did of his pet rabbit.
- 8 We always have and chips on Monday nights.
- 9 The Tower of London is built of from Caen in Normandy.
- 10 They say is the strongest emotion.
- 11 Although we have a big dining table, we only have four
- 12 of university scientists is doing research into the causes of obesity in children.

4 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Find ten more mistakes in the advertisement and correct them. **2.03** Listen and check.

East Hamley
Adult Education Centre

ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS

~~Are~~^{Is} art your passion?
Are you interested in a drawing, painting or the sculpture?
Would you like to improve your knowledge and skills?
Would you like to experience deep sense of satisfaction you get from creating your own original work?

At East Hamley College a team of highly qualified tutors are available to help you improve your technique. We run art classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6.30 to 9.00. Each session costs £15 and lasts for two hours with a 30-minute break. We think you'll agree that £15 aren't a lot to pay for over two hours with the personal attention of our art teachers!

Both the painting and the sculpture classes takes place in the new annexe on Becton Road. This also has a relaxing café selling a coffee and a

range of snacks where you can take a break and socialise with your fellow students.

You won't need to bring anything with you – we supply paint, papers and any other materials you need. But wear something that you don't mind covering in paint – a jeans and an old shirt is fine.

Every year, the work of our students are exhibited in a local gallery. So, if you're lucky, your work might get spotted – you could be the next Damien Hirst!

For details and enrolment forms contact us on 0330 676750