

C1 UNIT 44 Grammar

PLURAL NOUNS AND BASIC ARTICLE USAGE

UNIT 132 Guided Conv works with question tags - try to find a better place

Pronunciation of final -S/-ES.

(a) song-songs

The plural of most nouns is formed by adding final -s.*

(b) box-boxes

Final -es is added to nouns that end in -sh, -ch, -s, -z, and -x*

(c) baby-babies

The plural of words that end in a consonant + -y is spelled -ies.*

(d) man-men

ox-oxen

tooth-teeth

woman-women

foot-feet

mouse-mice

child-children

goose-geese

louse-lice

The nouns in (d) have irregular plural forms that do not end in -s.

(e) echo-echoes

potato-potatoes

hero-heroes

tomato-tomatoes

Some nouns that end in -o add -es to form the plural.

(f) auto-autos

photo-photos

studio-studios

ghetto-ghettos

piano-pianos

tattoo-tattoos

kangaroo-kangaroos

radio-radios

video-videos

kilo-kilos

solo-solos

zoo-zoos

memo-memos

soprano-sopranos

Some nouns that end in -o add only -s to form the plural.

(g) memento-mementoes/mementos

volcano-volcanoes/volcanos

mosquito-mosquitoes/mosquitos

zero -zeroes/zeros

tornado - tornadoes/tornados

Some nouns that end in -o add either -es or -s to form the plural (with -es being the more usual plural form).

(h) calf-calves

life-lives

thief-thieves

half-halves

loaf-loaves

wolf-wolves

knife-knives

self-selves

scarf-scarves /scarfs

leaf-leaves

shelf-shelves

Some nouns that end in -/ or -fe are changed to -ves to form the plural.

(i) belief-beliefs

cliff-cliffs

chief-chiefs

roof-roofs

Some nouns that end in -f simply add -s to form the plural.

(j) one deer-two deer

one series-two series

one fish-two fish**

one sheep-two sheep

one means-two means

one shrimp-two shrimp***

one offspring-two offspring

one species-two species

Some nouns have the same singular and plural form.

Some nouns that English has borrowed from other languages have foreign plurals.

(k) criterion-criteria

(o) analysis-analyses

phenomenon-phenomena

basis-bases

crisis-crises

(l) cactus-cacti cactuses

hypothesis-hypotheses

fungus-fungi

oasis-oases

nucleus-nuclei

parenthesis-parentheses

stimulus-stimuli

thesis-theses

syllabus-syllabi syllabuses

(p) bacterium-bacteria

(m) formula-formulae formulas , ,

curriculum-curricula

vertebra-vertebrae , . .

datum-data

(n) appendix-appendices /appendixes

medium-media

index-indices/indexes

memorandum-memoranda

EXERCISE 1. Plural nouns.

Directions: Write the correct form of the nouns in parentheses.

1. I met some interesting_____at the meeting last night, (man)
2. I need some to light the fire, (match)
3. The baby got two new_____. (tooth)
4. The farmer loaded his cart with_____of fresh vegetables to take to market. His cart was pulled by two_____. (box, ox)
5. Alex saw some_____ running across the floor. (mouse)
6. The north side of the island has no_____. There are only steep_____. No one can climb these steep walls of rock, (beach, cliff)
7. If a houseplant is given too much water, its lower_____turn yellow, (leaf)
8. Before Marie signed the contract, she talked to two_____. (attorney)
9. New scientific_____are made every day in _____throughout the world, (discovery, laboratory)
10. I caught several_____in the lake, (fish)
11. On our trip in the mountainous countryside, we saw some_____, _____, _____, and wild_____. (wolf, fox, deer, sheep)
12. When we spoke in the cave, we could hear_____of our voices, (echo)
13. The music building at the university has 27_____. Students need to sign up for practice times, (piano)
14. Thunder and lightning are_____of nature, (phenomenon)
15. People get most of their news about the world through the mass_____, that is, through radio, television, the Internet, newspapers, and magazines, (medium)

BASIC ARTICLE USAGE

EXERCISE 2. Count and noncount nouns.

Directions: Complete the sentences with the given nouns, adding final -s/-es if necessary.

Use each noun only once.

<i>advice</i>	<i>homework</i>	<i>music</i>	<i>stuff</i>
<i>>change</i>	<i>information</i>	<i>progress</i>	<i>thunder</i>
<i>garbage</i>	<i>junk</i>	<i>>river</i>	<i>traffic</i>
<i>hardware</i>	<i>luggage/baggage</i>		<i>screwdriver</i>

1. I have some coins in my pocket. In other words, I have some change in my pocket.
2. The Mississippi, the Amazon, and the Nile are well-known rivers.
3. I like to listen to operas, symphonies, and folk songs. I enjoy _____.
4. The street is full of cars, trucks, and buses. It is full of _____.
5. I put some banana peels, empty juice cartons, and broken bottles in the waste can. The can is full of _____.
6. They have a rusty car without an engine, broken chairs, and an old refrigerator in their front yard. Their yard is full of _____.
7. Paul has books, pens, papers, notebooks, a clock, scissors, a tape recorder, and some other things on his desk. He has a lot of _____ on his desk.*
8. The children got scared when they heard _____ during the storm.
9. Tools that are used for turning screws are called _____.
10. I went to the store to get some nails, hammers, and screws. In other words, I bought some _____.
11. Tonight I have to read 20 pages in my history book, do 30 algebra problems, and write a composition. In other words, I have a lot of _____ to do tonight.
12. Ann took three suitcases, a shoulder bag, and a cosmetics case. In other words, she took a lot of _____ on her trip.
13. Toronto is 365 ft./109 m. above sea level. The average annual precipitation in Toronto is 32 in./81 cm. The population of the metropolitan area is over 3,000,000. I found (*this, these*) _____ in the encyclopedia.
14. I didn't feel good. Ann said, "You should see a doctor." Nick said, "You should go home and go to bed." Martha said, "You should drink fruit juice and rest." I got _____ from three people.
15. My English is slowly getting better. My vocabulary is increasing. It's getting easier for me to write, and I make fewer mistakes. I can often understand people even when they talk fast. I'm satisfied with the _____ I've made in learning English.

BASIC ARTICLE USAGE

I. USING A or - : GENERIC NOUNS

SINGULAR COUNT NOUN	(a) A banana is yellow.*
A speaker uses generic nouns to make generalisations. A generic noun represents a whole class of things; it is not a specific, real, concrete thing, but rather a symbol of a whole group	
PLURAL COUNT NOUN	(b) Ø Bananas are yellow.
In (a) and (b):The speaker is talking about any banana, all bananas, bananas in general. In (c):The speaker is talking about any and all fruit, fruit in general.	

NONCOUNT NOUN	(c) Ø Fruit is good for you.
Notice that no article (Ø) is used to make generalisations with plural count nouns, as in (b), and with noncount nouns, as in (c).	

II. USING A or SOME: INDEFINITE NOUNS

SINGULAR COUNT NOUN	(d) I ate a banana.
Indefinite nouns are actual things (not symbols), but they are not specifically identified.	
PLURAL COUNT NOUN	(e) I ate some bananas.
In (d): The speaker is not referring to "this banana" or "that banana" or "the banana you gave me." The speaker is simply saying that s/he ate one banana. The listener does not know nor need to know which specific banana was eaten; it was simply one banana out of that whole group of things in this world called bananas.	
NONCOUNT NOUN	(f) I ate some fruit.
In (e) and (f): Some is often used with indefinite plural count nouns and indefinite noncount nouns. In addition to some, a speaker might use two, a few, several, a lot of , etc., with plural count nouns, or a little, a lot of , etc., with noncount nouns.	

III. USING THE: DEFINITE NOUNS

SINGULAR COUNT NOUN	(g) Thank you for the banana.
A noun is definite when both the speaker and the listener are thinking about the same specific thing.	
PLURAL COUNT NOUN	(h) Thank you for the bananas.
In (g): The speaker uses the because the listener knows which specific banana the speaker is talking about, i.e., that particular banana which the listener gave to the speaker.	
NONCOUNT NOUN	(i) Thank you for the fruit.
Notice that the is used with both singular and plural count nouns and with noncount nouns.	

*Usually a/an is used with a singular generic count noun. Examples:

A window is made of glass. A doctor heals sick people. Parents must give a child love. A box has six sides. An apple can be red, green, or yellow.

However, the is sometimes used with a singular generic count noun (not a plural generic count noun, not a generic noncount noun). "Generic the" is commonly used with, in particular:

(1) species of animals:

The blue whale is the largest mammal on earth.

The elephant is the largest land mammal.

(2) inventions:

Who invented the telephone? the wheel? the refrigerator? the airplane?

The computer will play an increasingly large role in all of our lives.

(3) musical instruments:

I'd like to learn to play the piano.

Do you play the guitar?

EXERCISE 3. Article usage with generic nouns.

Directions: Add an if necessary. Write Ø in the blank if the noun is noncount. Capitalize as appropriate.

1. A bird has wings.
2. an animal needs a regular supply of food.
3. Ø food is a necessity of life.
4. ___ concert is a musical performance.
5. ___ opera is a musical play.
6. ___ music consists of a series of pleasant sounds.
7. ___ cup is a small container used for liquids.
8. ___ milk is nutritious.
9. ___ island is a piece of land surrounded by water.
10. ___ gold is a metal.
11. ___ bridge is a structure that spans a river.
12. ___ valley is an area of low land between two mountains.
13. ___ health is one of the most important things in life.
14. ___ adjective is a word that modifies a noun.
15. ___ knowledge is a source of power.
16. ___ tennis is a sport.
17. ___ tennis player has to practice long hours.
18. ___ tree needs water to survive.
19. ___ water is composed of oxygen and hydrogen.
20. ___ homework is a necessary part of a course of study.
21. ___ grammar is interesting and fun.
22. ___ sentence usually contains a subject and a verb.
23. ___ English is used in airports throughout much of the world.
24. ___ air is free.
25. ___ orange is green until it ripens.
26. ___ fruit is good for you.
27. ___ iron is a metal.
28. ___ iron is an instrument used to take wrinkles out of cloth and fabric.
29. ___ basketball is round.
30. ___ basketball is a sport.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE USAGE

<p>(a) The sun is bright today. Please hand this book to the teacher. Please open the door. Omar is in the kitchen.</p>	<p>GUIDELINE: Use the when you know or assume that your listener is familiar with and thinking about the same specific thing or person you are talking about.</p>
<p>(b) Yesterday I saw some dogs. The dogs were chasing a cat. The cat was chasing a mouse. The mouse ran into a hole. The hole was very small.</p>	<p>GUIDELINE: Use the for the second mention of an indefinite noun.* In (b): first mention = some dogs, a cat, a mouse, a hole; second mention = the dogs, the cat, the mouse, the hole.</p>

<p>(c) CORRECT: Apples are my favourite fruit. INCORRECT: The apples are my favourite fruit.</p> <p>(d) CORRECT: Gold is a metal. INCORRECT: The gold is a metal.</p>	<p>GUIDELINE: Do NOT use the with a plural count noun (e.g., apples) or a noncount noun (e.g., gold) when you are making a generalisation.</p>
<p>(e) CORRECT: (1) I drove a car. (2) I drove the car. (3) I drove that car. (4) I drove Jim's car.</p> <p>INCORRECT: I drove car.</p>	<p>GUIDELINE: A singular count noun (e.g., car) is preceded by a marker: (1) a or an (or another singular marker such as one, each, or every); (2) the; (3) this or that; (4) a possessive (e.g., my, Jim's)</p>

***The** is not used for the second mention of a generic noun, COMPARE:

(1) What color is **a banana** (generic noun)? **A banana** (generic noun) is yellow.

(2) Joe offered me **a banana** (indefinite noun) or an apple. I chose **the banana** (definite noun).

EXERCISE 4. Article usage.

Directions: In these dialogues, decide whether the speakers would probably use a/an or the.

1. A: I have an idea. Let's go on a picnic Saturday.

B: Okay.

2. A: Did you have fun at the picnic yesterday?

B: Sure did. And you?

3. A: You'd better have ___ good reason for being late!

B: I do.

4. A: Did you think ___ reason Mike gave for being late was believable?

B: Not really.

5. A: Where's my blue shirt?

B: It's in ___ washing machine.

A: That's okay. I can wear ___ different shirt.

6. A: I wish we had ___ washing machine.

B: So do I. It would make it a lot easier to do our laundry.

7. A: Can you repair my car for me?

B: What's wrong with it?

A: ___ radiator has ___ leak, and one of ___ windshield wipers doesn't work.

B: Can you show me where ___ leak is?

8. A: What happened to your bicycle? ___ front wheel is bent.

B: I ran into ___ parked car when I swerved to avoid ___ big pothole in the street.

A: Did you damage ___ car?

B: A little.

A: What did you do?

B: I left ___ note for ___ owner of ___ car.

A: What did you write on ___ note?

B: My name and address. I also wrote ___ apology.

9. A: Have you seen my boots?

B: They're in ___ closet in ___ front hallway.

EXERCISE 5. Article usage.

Directions: Complete the sentences with a/an, the, or Ø . Capitalize as appropriate.

1. Ø Beef is a kind of Ø meat.
2. The beef we had for dinner last night was excellent.
3. Jim is wearing a straw hat today.

4. Jim likes to wear ___ hats.
5. ___ hat is ___ article of clothing.
6. ___ hats are ___ articles of clothing.
7. ___ brown hat on that hook over there belongs to Mark.
8. Everyone has ___ problems in ___ life.
9. My grandfather had ___ long life.
10. That book is about ___ life of Helen Keller.
11. Tommy wants to be ___ engineer when he grows up.
12. The Brooklyn Bridge was designed by ___ engineer.
13. John Roebling is ___ name of ___ engineer who designed the Brooklyn Bridge. He died in 1869 from ___ infection before ___ bridge was completed.
14. ___ people wear ___ jewelry to make themselves more attractive.
15. ___ jewelry Diana is wearing today is beautiful.

EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY

EXPRESSIONS OF QUANTITY	USED WITH COUNT NOUNS	USED WITH NONCOUNT NOUNS
(a) one each every	one apple each apple every apple	∅ ∅ ∅
(b) two, etc. both a couple of a few several many a number of	two apples both apples a couple of apples a few apples several apples many apples a number of apples	∅ ∅ ∅ ∅ ∅ ∅
An expression of quantity may precede a noun. Some expressions of quantity are used only with count nouns, as in (a) and (b).		
(c) a little much a great deal of	∅ ∅ ∅	a little rice much rice a great deal of rice
Some are used only with noncount nouns, as in (c).		
(d) no some/any a lot of/lots of plenty of most all	no apples some/any apples a lot of/lots of apples plenty of apples most apples all apples	no rice some/any rice a lot of /lots of rice plenty of rice most rice all rice
Some are used with both count and noncount nouns, as in (d).		

EXERCISE 6. Expressions of quantity.

Directions: Draw a line through the expressions that CANNOT be used to complete the sentence correctly. Item 0 has been started for you.

1. Jake has ____ homework.

0. ~~three~~

several

some

a lot of

too much

too many

a few

a little

a number of

a great deal of

hardly any

no

2. Isabel has _____ assignments.

three

several
some
a lot of
too much
too many
a few
a little
a number of
a great deal of
hardly any
no

EXERCISE 7. MUCH vs. MANY.

Directions: Write much or many. Also write the plural form of the italicized nouns as necessary. In some sentences, you will need to choose the correct verb in parentheses.

Examples:

1. I haven't visited ___many___ city cities in the United States.
2. There (isn't/aren't) __isn't much___ money in my bank account.
3. I haven't got ___ mail lately.
4. I don't get ___ letter.
5. There (isn't/aren't) ___ hotel in my hometown.
6. There (is/are) __ too ___ furniture in Anna's living room.
7. There (isn't/aren't) ___ traffic today.
8. There (isn't/aren't) ___ car on the road today.
9. I can't go with you because I have too ___ work to do.
10. A: How ___ side does a pentagon have?
B: Five.
11. I couldn't find ___ information in that book.
12. How ___ homework did the teacher assign?
13. I haven't met ___ people since I came here.
14. How ___ postage does this letter need?
15. I think there (is/are) ___ too ___ violence on television.
16. I don't have ___ patience with incompetence.
17. The doctor has so ___ patient that she has to work at least twelve hours a day.
18. A: How ___ tooth does the average person have?
B: Thirty-two.
19. There (isn't/aren't) ___ international news in the local paper.
20. How ___ fish (is/are) there in the ocean?
21. How ___ continent (is/are) there in the world?
22. How ___ progress has your country made in improving the quality of medical care available to the average citizen?

EXERCISE 8. Expressions of quantity.

Directions: If the given noun can be used to complete the sentence, write it in its correct form (singular or plural). If the given noun cannot be used to complete the sentence, write ∅.

1. Helen bought several
lamp ___lamps
3. Sam bought a lot of
stamp stamps

furniture ___[∅]___
jewelry ___[∅]___
necklace necklaces

rice rice
stuff stuff
thing things

2. Jack bought too much

shoe ___[∅]___
salt salt
equipment equipment
tool ___[∅]___

4. Alice bought a couple of

bread ___
loaf of bread ___
honey ___
jar of honey ___

5. I read a few

novel ___
literature ___
poem ___
poetry ___

6. I bought some

orange juice ___
light bulb ___
hardware ___
computer ___
software ___

7. We need plenty of

sleep ___
information ___
fact ___
help ___

8. I saw both

woman ___
movie ___
scene ___
scenery ___

9. Nick has a number of

shirt ___
homework ___
pen ___
chalk ___

10. I don't have a great deal of

patience ___
wealth ___
friend ___
pencil ___

11. I need a little

luck ___
money ___
advice ___
new hat ___

12. The author has many

idea ___
theory ___
hypothesis ___
knowledge ___

EXERCISE 9. Expressions of quantity.

Directions: Use many or much* with the following words, changing the words to plural if necessary. Pronounce final -s/-es loudly and clearly.

Examples: sentence -> many sentences

water -> much water

thief -> many thieves

1. furniture
2. desk
3. branch
4. equipment
5. machinery
6. machine
7. woman
8. piece
9. mouse
10. advice
11. sheep
12. homework
13. prize
14. goose
15. music
16. progress
17. race
18. knowledge
19. marriage
20. information
21. luck
22. hypothesis
23. mail
24. office
25. slang
26. roof
27. shelf
28. tooth

ANSWER KEY

EXERCISE 1:

3. teeth 4. boxes . . . oxen 5. mice 6. beaches . . . cliffs
7. leaves 8. attorneys 9. discoveries. . . laboratories 10. fish 11. wolves, foxes, deer . . .
sheep 12. echoes 13. pianos 14. phenomena 15. media

EXERCISE 2:

3. music 4. traffic 5. garbage 6. junk 7. stuff 8. thunder
9. screwdrivers 10. hardware 11. homework 12. luggage/baggage 13. this information 14. advice 15.
progress

EXERCISE 3:

4. A concert 5. An opera 6. Ø 7. A cup 8. Ø 9. An island 10. Ø 11. Abridge 12. A valley 13. Ø 14. An
22. A sentence 23. Ø 24. Ø 25. An orange 26. Ø 27. Ø 28. An iron 29. A basketball 30. Ø

EXERCISE 4:

3. a good reason 4. the reason 5. the washing machine ... a different shirt 6. a washing machine 7. A:
The radiator ... a leak ... the windshield wipers B: the leak 8. A: The front wheel B: a parked car ... a
big pothole A: the car B: a note ... the owner ... the car A: the note B: an apology 9. the closet ...
the front hallway

EXERCISE 5:

4. Ø 5. A hat... an article 6. Ø ... Ø 7. The brown hat 8. Ø ... Ø 9. a long life 10. the life 11. an
engineer 12. an engineer 13. the name ... the engineer ... an infection ... the bridge 14. Ø ... Ø
15. The jewelry

EXERCISE 6:

1. b. several
f. too many
g. a few
i. a number of

2. e. too much
h. a little
j. a great deal of

EXERCISE 7:

3. much mail 4. many letters 5. aren't many hotels 6. is too much furniture 7. isn't much traffic 8. aren't
many cars 9. much work 10. many sides 11. much information 12. much homework 13. many people
14. much postage 15. is too much violence 16. much patience 17. many patients 18. many teeth 19.
isn't much international news 20. many fish are 21. many continents are 22. much progress

EXERCISE 8:

4.Ø
loaves of bread
Ø
jars of honey
5. novels
Ø
poems
Ø
6. orange juice
light bulbs
hardware
computer software
7. sleep
information
facts
help
8. women
movies

scenes

9. shirts

∅

pens

∅

10. patience

wealth

∅

∅

11. luck

money

advice

∅

12. ideas

theories

hypotheses

∅

EXERCISE 9:

1. much furniture 2. many desks 3. many branches 4. much equipment 5. much machinery 6. many machines 7. many women

8. many pieces 9. many mice 10. much advice 11. many sheep 12. much homework 13. many prizes

14. many geese 15. much music 16. much progress 17. many races 18. much knowledge 19. many marriages

20. much information 21. much luck 22. many hypotheses 23. much mail

24. many offices 25. much slang 26. many roofs 27. many shelves 28. many teeth