

# GRAMMAR

## 1 COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

1. Countable nouns are nouns that can be counted. They have singular and plural forms.

Examples:

Singular	Plural
apple	apples
bush	bushes
child	children
doll	dolls
fox	foxes
shelf	shelves



2. We can use quantifiers such as **a few**, **some**, **any**, **several**, **a lot of** and **plenty of** before plural countable nouns.

Examples:

- (a) My mother boiled **some** water this morning.  
(b) She made **a lot of** sandwiches for the picnic.

3. The word **any** is normally used with questions and negative statements.

Examples:

- (a) Do you have **any** stamps?  
(b) There aren't **any** oranges left.

4. Uncountable nouns are nouns that cannot be counted. They do not have a plural form.

Examples:

oil      flour      haze      fire      noodles      heat  
hair      coffee      salt      rice      milk      rain

5. We can use quantifiers such as **a little**, **some**, **any**, **much**, **a lot of** and **plenty of** before uncountable nouns.

Examples:

How **much** pepper do I add to the soup?  
There **is** a lot of noodles on the plate.



## 2 NUMBER NOUNS

1. A singular noun shows one person, place or thing.  
2. A plural noun shows more than one person, place or thing.  
3. We form plural nouns by **adding -s** or **-es**.

Examples:

bus – buses      hen – hens  
igloo – igloos      tree – trees

4. We add **-es** to words ending with **-ch**, **-o**, **-s**, **-sh** or **-x**.

Examples:

box – boxes      glass – glasses  
couch – couches      potato – potatoes  
dish – dishes      pouch – pouches

5. We change the **-y** to **-ies** for words ending in **'-y'**.

Examples:

baby – babies      lorry – lorries  
country – countries      nanny – nannies

6. We change the **-f** to **-ves** for words ending in **'-f'**.

Examples:

dwarf – dwarves      scarf – scarves  
knife – knives      shelf – shelves  
life – lives      thief – thieves

7. We form some irregular nouns by changing the vowels.

Examples:

foot – feet      mouse – mice  
goose – geese      louse – lice  
man – men      tooth – teeth

8. We form some irregular nouns by adding **-en**.

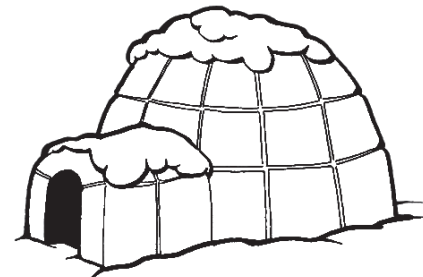
Examples:

child – children      ox – oxen

9. Some irregular nouns do not change in form.

Examples:

deer – deer      news – news  
fish – fish      scissors – scissors



### 3 COLLECTIVE NOUNS

Collective nouns refer to a group of people, animals or things taken together as a whole.

People		
an audience of listeners a band of musicians/pilgrims a bench of magistrates a board of directors a company of actors a coven of witches	a congregation of worshippers a faculty of academics a field of runners a flock of tourists a house of senators a posse of policemen	a panel of experts a regiment of soldiers a school of clerks a staff of servants/employees/teachers a troupe of acrobats/dancers/performers a tribe of natives

Animals		
an army of caterpillars/ants a bed of oysters/clams/mussels a colony of ants/wasps/termites a clan of hyenas a family of otters a nest of rabbits/mice	a hive of bees a host of sparrows a horde of hamsters a leash of greyhounds a flight of swallows a gaggle of geese	a kennel of dogs a muster of peacocks a pack of wolves/coyotes a plague of locusts a sloth of bears a stud of horses

Things		
an anthology of stories a bale of wool a batch of bread a bundle of sticks/rags a cache of jewels a chest of drawers a cluster of stars/diamonds a cloud of dust	a flight of steps a forest of trees a galaxy of stars a hedge of bushes a hill of beans a library of books a network of computers a pack of cards/suitcases	a quiver of arrows a range of mountains a ream of paper a suite of furniture a set of tools a sheaf of corn a volley of bullets a wad of bills

### 4 SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

- The verb must agree with the subject in a sentence.
- A singular verb is used with:

- a singular subject

**Examples:**

- He is** surfing the Internet.
- She does** the ironing at weekends.
- The crocodile crawls** onto the river bank.
- There was a heavy downpour** yesterday.

- collective nouns that are taken as a single group or unit

**Examples:**

- A herd of cows is** blocking the traffic.
- The police department has** been notified of the robbery.

- abstract or uncountable nouns

**Examples:**

- Too much sugar is** bad for health.
- Honey tastes** sweet.
- Patience is** a virtue.
- Wisdom comes** with experience.

- indefinite pronouns (someone, each, everyone, anyone, somebody, anybody, nobody)

**Examples:**

- Is someone** at the gate?
- Everyone is** excited about the coming school holidays.
- Each of us is** bringing a dish for the potluck.
- Somebody is** waiting for you at the reception area.

- with a plural noun that shows a fixed amount considered as a whole such as time, distance or money

**Examples:**

- Three weeks is** a long time indeed.
- Ten kilometres is** too far for us to walk.
- Two-thirds of his time is** spent travelling.
- 30 per cent is** the discount for this shirt.

- A plural verb is used with:

- a plural subject

**Examples:**

- They revise** their studies regularly.
- We are** at my cousin's house.
- The flowers in the vase have** wilted.
- Elephants have** sharp tusks.

- when referring to individual units of a collective noun

**Examples:**

- The audience were** thrilled with the singer's energetic performance.
- The crew are** listening to their captain now.

- when two or more subjects are joined by **and**

**Examples:**

- Zahrin and Kamal are** Boy Scouts.
- A motorcycle and a car** were involved in the collision.

