

● grammar summary

Nouns are mostly words for things and people – for example *house, tree, driver, child, water, idea, lesson*. Most nouns can come after *the*.

English nouns can be **countable** (we can say *two houses*) or **uncountable** (we can't say *two waters*).

Countable nouns have **plurals** (*houses*), and we can use *a/an* with them (*a house, an idea*).

Uncountable nouns have **no plurals**, and we can't use *a/an* before them.

Some English uncountable nouns are countable in some other languages (like *furniture*).

We can join two nouns:

- with a **possessive 's or s'** (for example *my brother's wife, my parents' house*).
- with a **preposition** (for example *a piece of cake*).
- directly one after the other (for example *chocolate cake, a shoe shop*).

The differences between these three structures are hard to learn – this is one of the most difficult points in English grammar. There are some basic rules in this section.

● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 284.

① Write the plurals.

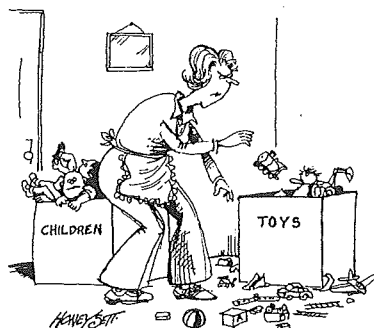
dog *dogs* home day family
woman child leaf

② Correct (✓) or not (X)?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ▶ There are two mans outside. <i>X</i> | 5 I don't like the ones without pockets. ... |
| ▶ This is my father's house. <i>✓</i> | 6 Here's a photo of my parent's wedding. ... |
| 1 My family have moved to Manchester. ... | 7 I think that's the John's car. ... |
| 2 I bought two new blue jeans yesterday. ... | 8 Do you have the address of Mary? ... |
| 3 People are all different. ... | 9 Have you got the telephone's book? ... |
| 4 I'd like a one with pockets. ... | 10 This shoe shop is very expensive. ... |

③ A/an or some?

- | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| ▶ <i>a</i> chair | ▶ <i>some</i> furniture | 1 information |
| 2 baggage | 3 journey | 4 petrol |
| 5 bread | 6 idea | |



singular and plural nouns *cat, cats; box, boxes*

Countable nouns have different forms for **singular** and **plural**.

one car four cars one day ten days one baby four babies one child six children

HOW TO MAKE PLURALS

- **most nouns:** + -s *book → books home → homes car → cars*
- **-s, -sh, -ch, -x:** + -es *bus → buses wish → wishes church → churches fox → foxes*

1 Write the plurals.

apple ✓	boss ✓	box	brush	cat	chair	church	class	dress	garden
gas	glass	hotel	plane	ship	table	time	tree	watch	wish
+ -S:	apples								
+ -ES:	bosses								

NOUNS ENDING IN -Y

- **-ay, -ey, -oy, -uy:** + -s *day → days monkey → monkeys toy → toys*
- **-by, -dy, -fy, -gy, etc:** -y → -ies *baby → babies lady → ladies lorry → lorries*

2 Write the plurals.

boy ✓	city ✓	copy	country	family	guy	holiday	key	party	way
+ -S:	boys								
-Y → -IES:	cities								

COMMON IRREGULAR PLURALS

mouse → mice	child → children	half → halves	shelf → shelves
foot → feet	penny → pence	knife → knives	thief → thieves
tooth → teeth	person → people	leaf → leaves	wife → wives
man → men		life → lives	
woman → women	potato → potatoes	loaf → loaves	sheep → sheep
	tomato → tomatoes	self → selves	fish → fish

Simple present verbs have different forms after **singular** and **plural** nouns (see page 14).

This bus runs at weekends. Most of the buses run at weekends.
My brother has a small flat. Both my brothers have good jobs.

3 Put in plural nouns or simple present verbs.

- Their homes in Scotland. (*be*)
- 1 Our play a lot of football. (*child*)
- 2 Those don't look English. (*student*)
- 3 Some people to talk to you. (*want*)
- 4 Big are always dirty. (*city*)
- 5 Their are travelling with them. (*wife*)
- 6 These knivesn't cut very well. (*do*)
- 7 My are giving me trouble. (*tooth*)
- 8 Those cost too much. (*watch*)
- 9 Most cry at night. (*baby*)
- 10 The are all wet. (*match*)
- 11 Who are those? (*guy*)
- 12 My parents at home. (*work*)
- 13 How many live here? (*person*)

singular/plural *team, family; jeans, scissors*

Words for **groups of people** can have **singular or plural verbs** in British English.
We often use **plural verbs** when we talk about **personal actions** (for example *play, want, think*).

The team is/are playing badly. *My family want/wants me to study.*

The government think/thinks taxes are too low.

Note the difference between *England* (the country) and *England* (the football team).

England has got a new prime minister. *England have got a new manager.*

Police is always **plural**.

The police are looking for a tall 30-year-old woman. (NOT *The police is looking ...*)

1 Group nouns (✓) or not (X)?

army ✓ audience ✓ beach X class club Communist Party company
crowd idea lunch question room school train

2 Put the beginnings and ends together, and put in plural verbs from the box.

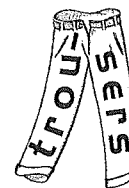
haven't need ✓ play say want

1 The club	A her to go to university. ...
2 The company	B only classical music. ...
3 Her family	C scored a goal this year. ...
4 The orchestra	D that they're losing money. ...
5 This team	E <u>need</u> a bigger room for their meetings. 1.

Some nouns are **always plural**. Some common examples:

trousers jeans tights shorts pants pyjamas glasses scissors

Those trousers are too short. (NOT *That trouser...*) *Where are my glasses?*



3 Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

blue jeans ✓ dark glasses silk pyjamas scissors shorts black trousers

- Every time I see her she's wearing blue jeans.
- I can't see very well with these
 - It's hot today. I'm going to put on
 - These don't cut very well.
 - You'd better put on your best for the interview.
 - She always sleeps in

We can also use the expression **a pair of** with these nouns.

three pairs of jeans (NOT *three jeans*) *two pairs of pyjamas* (NOT *two pyjamas*)

There is a pair of scissors on your chair. (NOT *... a-scissors...*)

more about countable and uncountable nouns

→ For an introduction to countable and uncountable nouns, and some basic exercises, see page 147.

Countable nouns are words like *car, book, chair*. They can be singular or plural.

Uncountable nouns are words like *petrol, rice, water*. They are only singular.

1 Revision. Circle the uncountable nouns.

cup dog flower guitar love meat music ear oil photo river
salt snow sugar women wool

The following words are **uncountable** in English (but countable in some other languages). They are normally **only singular**, and we **cannot** use *a/an* with them. (NOT ~~a travel~~, ~~a furniture~~)

advice baggage bread furniture hair information knowledge luck luggage
news spaghetti (and macaroni etc) travel work

This furniture is too expensive. His hair is very long. Travel teaches you a lot.

2 Put *a* with the countable nouns and *some* with the uncountable nouns.

some... bread *a*..... cheque baggage fridge furniture
..... handbag holiday knowledge luck
..... newspaper problem station travel work

3 Put in suitable uncountable nouns from the box.

advice	baggage	furniture	information ✓	news	spaghetti	travel	work
--------	---------	-----------	---------------	------	-----------	--------	------

► Can you give me some *information*..... about the school?

1 'Have you got much?' 'No, just one small bag.'

2 I live 50 kilometres from my work, so I spend a lot of money on

3 This isn't very good. You cooked it for too long.

4 I've stopped reading the papers. The is always bad.

5 I don't know what to do. Can you give me some

6 All this is from my mother's house.

7 I've got too much and not enough free time.

To give a **countable** meaning, we usually use a **longer expression** or a **different word**.

Can you give me a piece of advice? Did you have a good journey?

4 Put in words or expressions from the box.

a piece of advice	a piece of baggage ✓	a piece of information	a piece of news	a job	a journey
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► a suitcase *a piece of baggage*.....

1 selling newspapers

2 driving from London to Edinburgh

3 'Don't marry him, dear.'

4 'The next train leaves at 10.15.'

5 'There has been a big train crash.'

Some words can be countable or uncountable, with different meanings.

A light was on in the house. (= 'a lamp') Light travels at 300,000 km a second.

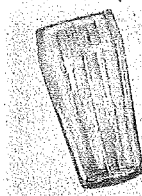
I've seen that film three times. Time goes fast when you're having fun.

I had a strange experience yesterday. We need a secretary with experience.

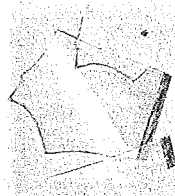
Three coffees, please. (= 'cups of coffee') I drink too much coffee.

5 Look at the pictures and put in descriptions from the box.

a chicken chicken a chocolate chocolate a glass glass an iron
iron a paper paper



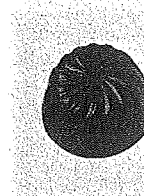
1



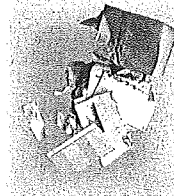
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3



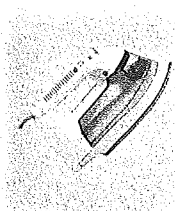
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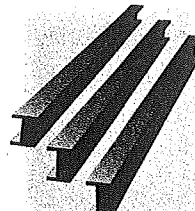
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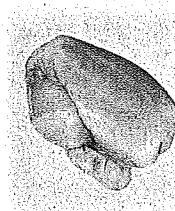
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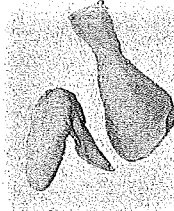
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8



9



10

6 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: containers

Make sure you know the words in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary. Then use them to complete the descriptions under the pictures.

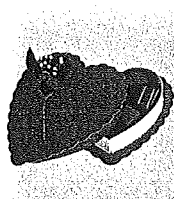
bag bottle box can cup glass jar jug mug packet



1 a
of water



2 a
of water



3 a
of chocolates



4 a
of tea



5 a
of coffee



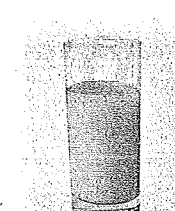
6 a
of honey



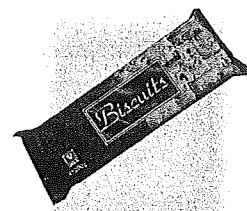
7 a
of soup



8 a
of onions



9 a
of orange juice



10 a
of biscuits

one and ones a big one; the ones on the chair

We often use **one** instead of repeating a countable noun.

'What sort of **car** would you like?' 'A big **one**.' (= 'A big **car**.') (NOT 'A big'.)

That was a great **party**. Let's have another **one** soon.

The plural is **ones**.

'Which are your gloves?' 'The **ones** on the chair.'

1 Complete the sentences with one(s), using words from the box.

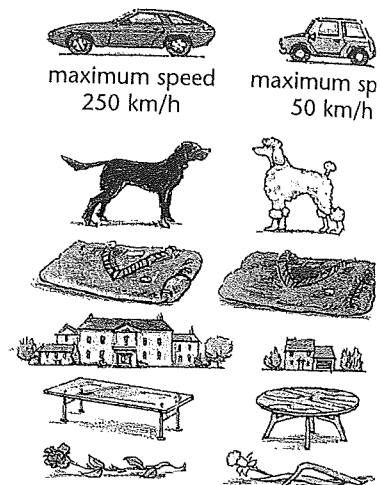
another green ✓ blue last new this small

- I bought a blue shirt and two green ones.
- 1 That shop isn't as good as
- 2 My TV's broken. I must get
- 3 She's finished her apple. She wants
- 4 That bus is the tonight.
- 5 'Another piece of cake?'
'Just a'
- 6 I don't like the red shoes. I prefer the

2 Look at the picture and answer the questions. Use words from the box.

big black blue fast glass ✓ green red
slow small white wooden ✓ yellow

- Which table do you prefer? The glass one.
OR The wooden one.
- 1 Which house do you prefer?
- 2 Which sweater do you prefer?
- 3 Which car do you prefer?
- 4 Which dog do you prefer?
- 5 Which flower do you prefer?



We say **one**, not **a one**, when there is **no adjective**.

'What sort of cake would you like?' '**One** with a lot of cream.' (NOT 'A one with...')

'Is there a garage near here?' 'There's **one** in Weston Street.'

3 Write some true sentences. Use the expressions in the box.

I've already got one. I haven't got one. I need one. I need a new one.
I don't need one. I'd like one. I don't want one.

- a computer I don't need one.
- 1 a bicycle
- 2 a fast car
- 3 a camera
- 4 a cup of coffee
- 5 a tennis racket
- 6 a raincoat
- 7 a rich uncle

We only use **one** for **countable** nouns (see page 190).

'Would you like some **coffee**?' 'Yes, **black** (coffee), please.' (NOT 'Yes, black one...')

's and s' possessive: forms *son's, sons', men's*

HOW TO MAKE POSSESSIVE FORMS

- singular nouns: + 's *my son's car John and Iris's flat the cat's leg*
- most plural nouns: + ' *those boys' passports the babies' toys our wives' stories*
- plurals without s: + 's *most children's poems three men's names the people's voices*

1 Make possessive forms by adding 's or '.

- ▶ my mother's nose
- ▶ my sisters' names
- 1 Alice and John... house
- 2 artists... ideas
- 3 my dog... ears
- 4 those dogs... ears
- 5 those men... faces
- 6 his girlfriend... piano
- 7 their grandchild... birthday
- 8 their grandchildren... school
- 9 ladies... hats
- 10 my aunt and uncle... shop
- 11 Patrick... books
- 12 a photographer... job
- 13 our postman... cat
- 14 postmen... uniforms
- 15 Joyce... pen
- 16 the thief... bag
- 17 the thieves... car
- 18 that woman... brother
- 19 most women... desks
- 20 your mum and dad... bedroom

2 'Police are looking for two young girls.' Complete the news story. Don't forget to add 's or '.

The two girls disappeared from (*their grandmother*) ▶ ...*their grandmother's*..... garden in Ilkley yesterday evening. Josie and Cara Sharp, aged 7 and 9, were staying at (*their grandparents*) 1 house for a week. They were in Ilkley for a (*children*) 2 theatre course. The police have asked the course teachers for (*the other children*) 3 names and addresses, and they have also put Josie (*and Cara*) 4 photos on local television. (*The two girls*) 5 mother, Mrs Jenna Sharp, has appeared on TV as well. A shopkeeper thinks she saw Josie and Cara getting into (*a man*) 6 car; police officers have asked for (*the shopkeeper*) 7 help with a photofit picture of the man. The police have also got (*local people*) 8 help in looking for the girls near the town.

We can use more than one possessive noun.

John's mother's cat Helen's boss's car

3 Write the possessive expressions.

- ▶ My son has got a teacher. She has got a husband. *my son's teacher's husband*
- 1 My sister has got a secretary. She has got an office.
- 2 Jane has got children. They have got bicycles.
- 3 Rob has got a family. They have got a holiday flat.

's and s' possessive: use *Ian's car; the boss's car*

Possessive nouns with 's or s' take the place of *the*.

the car that belongs to Ian → *Ian's car* (NOT ~~*Ian's the car*~~)

the shoes that belong to Jo → *Jo's shoes*

But a possessive noun can have its own article.

the car that belongs to the boss → *the boss's car*

the shoes that belong to the children → *the children's shoes*

1 Make 's or s' possessive structures.

- ▶ The dog belongs to Joe. *Joe's dog*
- ▶ The dog belongs to the postman. *the postman's dog*
- 1 The house belongs to Ann.
- 2 The house belongs to the doctor.
- 3 The book belongs to Oliver.
- 4 The car belongs to the teacher.
- 5 The money belongs to the children.
- 6 The money belongs to Susan.

2 Change the sentences.

- ▶ *The classes are using the new books. (the French teachers)*
The French teachers' classes are using the new books.
- 1 *The car is parked in front of the house. (the builder; Anna)*
..... car is parked in front of house.
- 2 Do you know *the address?* *(the tall woman)*
.....
- 3 *Their bedtime is eight o'clock. (the children)*
.....
- 4 *The brothers are both in the army. (Alice and Pat)*
.....

We use possessive 's and s' mostly to talk about possession, experience and relationships (family, friends etc). We usually put 's or s' after the names of people and animals.

Ann's purse *Ann's English lessons* *Ann's husband* *Ann's friend* *Ann's boss*
my dad's book (NOT ~~*the book of my dad*~~) *my horse's ears* (NOT ~~*the ears of my horse*~~)
BUT *the roof of the house* (NOT ~~*the house's roof*~~) *the top of my desk* (NOT ~~*my desk's top*~~)

3 Write two sentences for each item.

- ▶ Is *the door* open? *(Paul; the library)*
Is Paul's door open? *Is the door of the library open?*
- 1 What's *the name?* *(your brother; that book)*
.....
- 2 Is there anything in *the pockets?* *(the children; that coat)*
.....
- 3 You can see the church from *the window.* *(Emma; the living room)*
.....
- 4 Why are *the arms* so dirty? *(John; your chair)*
.....

With some **common time words**, we add 's to say **how long** something takes.
a second's thought a minute's silence

4 Choose a time expression for each sentence. Use the words in the box.

second ✓ minute hour day week year

- 'Who was it?' I asked. There was a *pause* before she answered. *a second's pause*
- After university, Eric took a *course* to become a teacher.
 - Lin had a *holiday* with her mother earlier this year.
 - Oxford is nearly 600 km from Edinburgh – that's a *journey*.
 - Sita's new job will mean a *drive* to work every morning.
 - There was a *wait* while the computer started up.

We can use **noun + 's or s'** without another noun, if the meaning is clear.

'Whose coat is that?' 'Harry's.' My hair is dark, but **my children's** is fair.

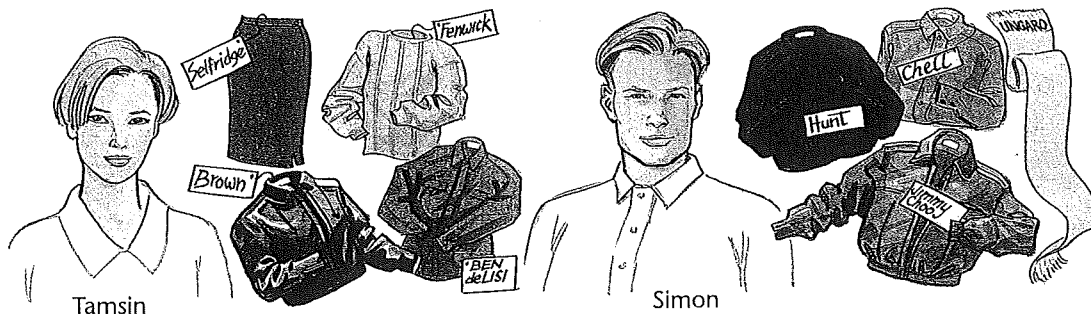
We also use **noun + 's or s'** without other nouns for offices, churches and some shops.

I bought this at **Allder's**. I hate going to the **dentist's**. She sings at **St. John's**.

5 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.

► The green skirt is *Tamsin's*. *She* bought it at *Selfridge's*.

- The grey pullover is bought it at
- The black leather jacket
- The blue shirt
- The brown leather jacket
- The navy blue pullover
- The red shirt
- The yellow scarf



We often **noun + 's or s'** without other nouns to talk about **people's homes**.

I saw Monica at **June and Barry's** on Friday. Lee is going to **his sister's** next weekend.

6 Other people's homes: write about two or more things in your past. Use *at ...'s* or *at ...s'*.

I met my girlfriend at *Judy's*. I went to my grandparents' for Easter.

noun + noun *Milk chocolate is a kind of chocolate.*

We can put one noun before another when we are talking about a kind of thing or person.
The first noun is usually singular.

milk chocolate = a kind of chocolate, with milk in it *chocolate milk* = a kind of milk, with chocolate in it
flower shop = shop that sells flowers (NOT ~~flowers-shop~~) *corner shop* = a shop on a corner
hotel receptionist = a receptionist in a hotel *history teacher* = a teacher who teaches history

- ① Use the words in the box to make noun + noun structures. You can use some of the words more than once.

army	aspirin	business	corner	e-mail	flower	garden	home
jazz	kitchen	milk	opera	perfume	police	pop	prison
							village

- 3 kinds of shop *flower shop, corner shop, village shop*
- 1 3 kinds of address
- 2 3 kinds of bottle
- 3 3 kinds of singer
- 4 3 kinds of wall
- 5 3 kinds of uniform
- 6 2 kinds of chair

- ② Change the expressions in the box to noun + noun structures, and put the beginnings and ends together. Remember: don't make the first noun plural.

clothes for babies	make-up for eyes ✓	building with offices in it	food for dogs
engineer who works on computers	school of languages	drawer for knives	

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Judy wears too much <i>...eye make-up...</i> to the office | A but he couldn't repair it. ... |
| 2 They're going to put a big | B I want to learn Japanese. ... |
| 3 Our dog won't eat | C - does she think she's at a party? <u>1</u> |
| 4 The looked at my printer, | D he only wants fresh meat or fish. ... |
| 5 Do you know of a good? | E when my brother was born. ... |
| 6 My aunt made some lovely | F at the corner of our street. ... |
| 7 Why are the spoons in the? | G And who put them there? ... |

We often use noun + noun structures to talk about what things are made of.

- ③ Write noun + noun names for these.

- soup with chicken in it *...chicken soup...*
- 1 a box made of metal
- 2 cakes with chocolate in them
- 3 a fork made of plastic
- 4 soup made of vegetables
- 5 a jacket made of leather
- 6 shirts made of cotton
- 7 a plate made of paper
- 8 salad with tomatoes in it
- 9 a wall made of stones

We often use **noun + noun** structures when the second noun is made from a verb + *er*.
a truck driver = a person who drives a truck *a hair dryer* = a machine for drying hair

4 What do we call these people or things?

- This person drives a bus. *a bus driver*
- 1 This person manages an office.
 - 2 This machine makes coffee.
 - 3 This person drinks coffee.
 - 4 This person loves animals.
 - 5 This stuff cleans floors.
 - 6 This person plays tennis.
 - 7 This thing opens letters.
 - 8 This person smokes cigars.
 - 9 This person climbs mountains.

NOUN + NOUN STRUCTURE OR 'S / S' POSSESSIVE STRUCTURE

We mostly use 's or s' when the **first noun possesses, experiences or has a relationship** with the **second noun**. We use a **noun + noun structure** for **other** kinds of meaning. So **things do not usually take 's / s'**. Compare:

the dog's name (possession: the dog has a name) *Rita's accident* (experience: Rita had an accident)
Ed's brother (relationship: Ed has a brother) *Annie's secretary is Ellen's best friend.* (relationships)
 BUT *a shoe brush* (the shoe doesn't possess or experience the brush; shoes don't have relationships)

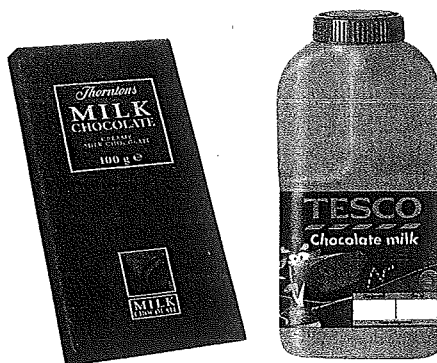
5 Circle the correct answers.

- 1 Could I borrow your *telephone's book* / *telephone book* for a minute?
- 2 Is that your *teacher's book* / *teacher book*, or is it yours?
- 3 *Elizabeth's journey* / *Elizabeth journey* took her to five continents.
- 4 The *train's journey* / *train journey* from Huntsville to Victoria was very boring.
- 5 My *aunt's home* / *aunt home* is full of beautiful furniture.
- 6 Our *holiday's home* / *holiday home* is in the French Alps.
- 7 My *brother's interview* / *brother interview* with the president will be on the radio today.
- 8 I was very nervous about my *job's interview* / *job interview*.

GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: one-word noun + noun structures

Some noun + noun structures are so common that we write them as **one word**, for example:

armchair *bathroom* *bedroom* *bookshop* *businessman* *businesswoman* *hairbrush*
handbag *raincoat* *postman* *postwoman* *schoolchild* *suitcase* *toothbrush* *toothpaste*



test yourself nouns

1 Write the plurals.

bus <i>buses</i>	fox	journey	country
match	book	table	foot
person	knife	mouse	

2 Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

- ▷ My friends are playing well. ✓
- 1 He buys too much clothes. ...
- 2 He's bought two new trousers. ...
- 3 the Peter's house ...
- 4 the mother of James ...
- 5 That building is a boy's school. ...
- 6 She writes children's books. ...

3 Countable or uncountable? Put in *a/an* or *some*.

- ▷ We need *a* new bed.
- ▷ We need *some* new furniture.
- 1 Can you give me advice?
- 2 I found money in the street this morning.
- 3 I've got difficult job to do today.
- 4 Ann gave me good news.
- 5 I need a taxi, because I've got heavy luggage.
- 6 Did you have good journey?

4 Which nouns can be plural? Write the plural or ✗.

- ▷ note *notes*
- ▷ money ✗
- 1 information
- 2 bread
- 3 idea
- 4 luck
- 5 knowledge
- 6 journey
- 7 furniture
- 8 government
- 9 class
- 10 traffic

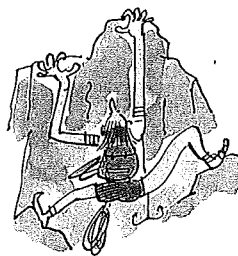
5 Put in three different nouns.

- 1 a pair of 2 a pair of 3 a pair of

6 Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

- 1 The team are playing well. ...
- 2 The police don't usually carry guns in Britain. ...
- 3 How much are the blue ones? ...
- 4 I'd like a one with a radio. ...
- 5 the house's door ...
- 6 the teacher's book ...
- 7 the telephone book ...
- 8 a journey of a day ...
- 9 two shoes shops ...
- 10 We're going round to Jan and Peters place. ...
- 11 I like eating chocolate milk. ...
- 12 I've bought a new leather jacket. ...

7 What are these people?



- ▷ a hockey player 1 2 3

8 More difficult questions