

## Countable nouns

Countable nouns have a singular and a plural form and take a singular or plural verb.

Form

Countable nouns	Example
shop / shops	There are over 100 <b>shops</b> in the new shopping centre.
baby / babies	They've got some great toys for <b>babies</b> in there.
dish / dishes	We need to get some new <b>dishes</b> for this evening.

## Helpful hints

We use these words with countable nouns:

- a, an • many
- a few • one, two, etc

Watch out!

A few countable nouns have irregular plurals. They include:

- one child, two children
- one person, two people
- one foot, two feet
- one tooth, two teeth
- one man, two men
- one woman, two women

## Uncountable nouns

We cannot count some nouns (uncountable nouns). They do not have a plural form and take a singular verb, even if they end in -s.

Form

Some uncountable nouns	Example
advice, bread, fruit, furniture, hair, homework, information, money, news, paper, rice, work	My <b>money is</b> in my wallet. Your <b>hair is</b> really long! The <b>news was</b> a complete shock.

## Helpful hints

We use these words with uncountable nouns:

- a little • much
- a bit of • a piece of

We use these words with both countable and uncountable nouns:

- a lot of • some • lots of • the

We can use *any* in questions and negative statements with both uncountable nouns and plural countable nouns:

- Have we got **any** homework today?
- There aren't **any** eggs left.

Watch out!

There are a few uncountable nouns that are plural and are followed by a plural verb. Be careful with the following words.

- clothes
- ✓ Your clean **clothes are** on the bed.
- jeans
- ✓ Your new **jeans look** great!
- Some nouns are uncountable with one meaning and countable with another meaning.
- ✓ Get me some **paper** when you go to the shops. (= a packet of paper to write on)
- ✓ Get me **a paper** when you go to the shops. (= a newspaper)

**A** Complete using the plural form of the words in the box.

child • foot • man • person • puppy • tooth • watch • woman

- 1 Did you know that Jason's dog has had three beautiful .....
- 2 The *Spice Girls* was an all-girl band, so there weren't any .....
- 3 It's a bit strange that Victor wears two ..... – one on each arm.
- 4 If ..... do the same jobs as their husbands, they should be paid the same.
- 5 The dentist says I have to have two ..... taken out!
- 6 How many ..... were there at the show?
- 7 We've walked miles! My ..... are hurting!
- 8 Mrs Jenkins has just had a baby, so she's got three ..... now.

**B** Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 Your money **is** / **are** on the table in the dining room.
- 2 The advice you gave me **was** / **were** really useful. Thanks!
- 3 The cakes in that shop **looks** / **look** absolutely delicious.
- 4 There **has** / **have** been a lot of bad news recently.
- 5 Your homework **was** / **were** late. Please do it sooner next time.
- 6 **Does** / **Do** the information about the museum include the opening times?
- 7 We need new furniture in the dining room. **It's** / **They're** very old and scratched.
- 8 The fish in this tank all **seems** / **seem** to be ill.
- 9 I love your hair. **It's** / **They're** really soft.
- 10 Oh, no! The rice **has** / **have** gone all over the floor!

**C** Complete using the phrases in the box. You have to use some phrases more than once. Where there is more than one answer, write all the answers.

a few • a little • a piece of • some



sugar



bread



bottles



water



fruit



toys



butter



music

**D** Complete each second sentence using the word given, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write no more than three words.

- We don't know anything about the problem. **information**  
We don't ..... about the problem.
- Is it okay if I have some cheese? **bit**  
Is it okay if I have ..... cheese?
- There's only a little coffee left in the jar. **much**  
There ..... coffee left in the jar.
- I try not to drink too much Coca-Cola in a week. **cans**  
I try not to drink too ..... of Coca-Cola in a week.
- Would you like some more chocolate? **piece**  
Would you like ..... chocolate?
- I don't want a lot of cream on my strawberries. **cream**  
I only want ..... on my strawberries.

**E** Choose the correct answer.

- Be careful with that vase because it's made of .....!  
A glass                      B a glass
- I started coughing because I had ..... at the back of my throat.  
A hair                      B a hair
- Don't put your hot cup on my new table! It's ..... and I don't want you to burn it.  
A wood                      B a wood
- We should all recycle ..... so that it can be used again.  
A paper                      B a paper
- My dad gets ..... every day on his way to work.  
A paper                      B a paper
- Of course you can have some milk. Get ..... out of the cupboard.  
A glass                      B a glass

**F** Write one word in each gap.

### Open-air markets

Even if you only have a (1) ..... money, you can still have a great time at your local open-air market. The clothes (2) ..... cheap, and the fruit (3) ..... cheap, too! Often, the food in your local supermarket (4) ..... travelled a long way, but at the market you know that you're buying food which has been produced locally. The vegetables (5) ..... fresh, even if you go late in the day when there are only a (6) ..... left. Support your local market and help local farmers. Contact your Town Hall to find out if there are (7) ..... open-air markets in your area.