

# Nouns

plurals; countable and uncountable; *a/the/no* article

## A Context listening

**A1**  You are going to hear some advertisements and announcements on a local radio station. Look at the pictures and match them to what you hear.

A




B



C



**A2**  Listen to the first advertisement again and complete these sentences using the places in the box. You sometimes need to add *the*.

Alps Andes Atlantic Ocean Greece Lake Garda  
New York Rome Sahara Desert

- 1 You can go climbing in the Alps or .....
- 2 We're not suggesting sailing across ..... but you can sail around the coast of ..... or on .....
- 3 You can watch the sun set over .....
- 4 Go on one of our city breaks to ..... or .....

Do we use *the* before the names of:

countries? ..... cities? ..... mountain ranges? ..... deserts? ..... lakes? ..... oceans? .....

**A3**  Listen to the second advertisement again. What does he talk about?

jeans pyjamas shirts shorts shoes socks trousers

**Which words above can you use only in the plural?**

**A4**  Listen to the announcement again. Complete these sentences.

- 1 The ..... on 555FM is perfect for a Friday afternoon.
- 2 Are you sitting in your car in the ..... ?
- 3 We bring you the latest ..... every hour.
- 4 Then it's your chance to phone us and ask us a question about .....
- 5 Mark Sherlock, is here to give you .....

**Look at the nouns you wrote. Can you make them plural?**

## B Grammar

### B1 Plurals

Some things we wear or use are always plural. They are made of two parts which cannot be separate: *trousers, pyjamas, shorts, jeans, tights, pants, sunglasses, glasses, scissors*. They have a plural verb:

*My **trousers** are new. (not ~~My trouser is new.~~)*

*These **shorts** are dirty. (not ~~This short is dirty.~~)*

Other things we wear can be singular. They are made of two parts which can be separate: *shoe/shoes, sock/socks, earring/earrings*.

⚠ The word *clothes* is never singular: *I bought some new clothes. (not ~~I bought a new clothe.~~)*

→C1

### B2 A(n), the and no article

	means:	use for:	use with:
A(n)	one of many: <i>My sister works in <b>a</b> cinema.</i>	new information: <i>My friend was talking to <b>a</b> girl.</i>	countable* nouns ( <i>cinema, girl</i> )
The	the only one(s) or the particular one(s): <i><b>The</b> cinema opened last week.</i>	things already introduced: <i><b>The</b> girl was very angry.</i> when we already know what we are talking about: <i>Where's <b>the</b> money I lent you?</i>	countable* nouns ( <i>cinema, girl</i> ) and uncountable* nouns ( <i>money</i> )
No article	all: <i><b>Cinemas</b> show films.</i>	things in a general sense: <i><b>Money</b> makes people happy.</i> <i><b>I</b> like music.</i>	plural countable* nouns ( <i>cinemas</i> ) and uncountable* nouns ( <i>money, music</i> )

\*See B3 below.

→C2, C3

### B3 Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable nouns (e.g. *shoe, passport*)

- ◆ can be singular with *a, the*:  
***a** passport, **the** phone*  
*I've got **a** problem. (not ~~I've got problem.~~)*
- ◆ can be plural with no article, *some* or *the*:  
*shoes, **some** cars, **the** cars*
- ◆ have a singular or plural verb:  
*The car **is** new. The cars **are** new.*

Uncountable nouns (e.g. *air, bread, food, help, ice, music, money, pollution, rain, sand, travel*):

- ◆ use *the, some* or no article but not *a*:  
***the** money, **some** money, money (not ~~a money~~)*
- ◆ cannot be plural:  
*money (not ~~moneys~~), music (not ~~musics~~)*
- ◆ always have a singular verb:  
*The music **is** perfect. (not ~~The musics are perfect.~~)*

⚠ These nouns are usually uncountable in English (but are countable in some other languages): *advice, furniture, hair, homework, information, luck, luggage, money, news, traffic, travel* (but *trip* and *journey* are countable), *weather, work*.

⚠ *news* ends in s but is uncountable.

When we want to count things which are uncountable nouns, we use words like *a bag, a bottle, a box, a cup, a glass, a packet, a piece*:

*I need **a bottle** of water. (not ~~I need a water.~~)*

Many drinks can be countable or uncountable:

*Would you like **a coffee**? (= a cup of coffee)*

*I'd like **two coffees** and **a tea**, please. (= 2 cups of coffee + 1 cup of tea)*

*I bought **some coffee** in the market. (= a packet of coffee)*

→C2

## B4 The or no article

### Places

There is no article before

- ◆ continents, most countries, states, cities, towns, villages:

*Europe, Italy, London, Florida* but we say **the Netherlands**.

- ◆ buildings and places that use the name of their town:

*Manchester Airport, Cardiff Station, Edinburgh Castle, Durham University*

⚠ We say *at school, at work, at home* and *in bed*.

We put *the* before

- ◆ names of countries that include a word like *Republic* or *States*:

**the United States, the Czech Republic**

- ◆ oceans, seas and rivers: **the Pacific Ocean, the Danube** but not before lakes: *Lake Ontario*.

- ◆ regions: **the Far East, the north**

- ◆ groups of islands: **the Philippines**

- ◆ deserts and mountain ranges: **the Kalahari, the Himalayas** but not before one mountain:

*Mount Everest*

- ◆ the environment: **the sea, the coast, the seaside, the beach, the country, the mountains, the hills, the sky, the sun, the moon**

### Jobs

We say *I'm **a** doctor. (not ~~I'm doctor.~~)*

### Entertainment

We *listen to **the** radio* but we *watch television*.

We *play **the** guitar* (a musical instrument) but we *play tennis* (a sport).

We *go to **the** cinema, **the** theatre* etc.

### Travel

We *travel by train, bus* etc. (**not ~~by the train.~~**)

### Meals

We *have lunch, dinner* etc. (**not ~~the lunch~~** etc.)

→C3, C4

## C Grammar exercises

**C1** Which of the plural words in the box can we also use in the singular form?

boots bracelets clothes earrings gloves  
jeans shorts socks shoes tights

**C2** Look at this notice from a holiday cottage. For each of the underlined words, add s if it is plural countable.

### *Rose Cottage, Hobbs Farm, Newton, Near Norwich*

Welcome!

To help you enjoy your stay, we offer some 1 advice ..... for 2 visitor <sup>5</sup>..... .

You can use 3 euro ..... in Norwich city centre but you need English 4 money ..... at the shop in Newton village. This shop sells good 5 bread ..... and you can buy fresh 6 vegetable ..... from the farmhouse. For other 7 food ..... use the 8 shop ..... in Ridby or Walcot.

If you want some 9 information ..... about 10 travel ..... and 11 traffic ..... in the Ridby area, try the local radio station.

Notes

If you want to listen to 12 music ..... please remember to keep the volume down. Please use only garden 13 chair ..... in the garden. Do not take any sitting-room 14 furniture ..... outside.

Please be careful not to bring any 15 sand ..... or 16 stone ..... into the cottage from the beach.

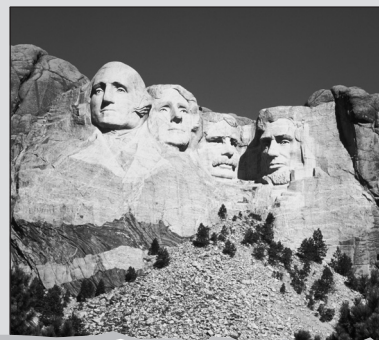
Thank you – enjoy your stay!

**C3** Read these short newspaper articles. Add *the*, *a* or *an* or nothing to the gaps.

1

## THAT WAS LUCKY!

Last weekend 1 ..... <sup>a</sup>..... group of tourists had 2 ..... lucky escape near 3 ..... Mount Rushmore in 4 ..... United States. Their car was hit by 5 ..... small plane making an emergency landing. 6 ..... pilot broke two toes. 7 ..... tourists were not hurt, but their car and 8 ..... plane were damaged.



2

## NO MORE FOREIGN HOLIDAYS?

‘We must do more to prevent pollution,’ 1 ..... professor at Exeter University in 2 ..... South of England said yesterday. Professor Kirkwell said that pollution is increasing all over 3 ..... world. ‘Places like 4 ..... Andes mountains and 5 ..... Sahara desert will get warmer, and some small islands will disappear. Everyone wants to travel by 6 ..... plane but this cannot continue. People must think more carefully about 7 ..... environment when they choose 8 ..... holiday.’

3

## THE WRONG JOB

Janice Miller left her job at 1 ..... cinema near 2 ..... Bristol in 3 ..... west of England yesterday after only one day because she didn't want to watch 4 ..... horror film. ‘I didn't know I'd see any films,’ she explained. ‘I saw 5 ..... horror film once, and I was very frightened. I thought my job was just selling tickets.’

Stanley Greenham, 6 ..... manager of 7 ..... cinema, said that he was sorry.

‘I didn't really explain 8 ..... job to Janice at her interview,’ he added.


‘9 ..... horror films we show aren't very frightening. 10 ..... young people usually like them.’



**C4** There is one mistake in each of these sentences. Find them and correct them.

- 1 I want to buy some trouser<sup>S</sup> so I'll meet you by the new clothes shop.
- 2 Tom Cruise was wearing a black jacket, black jean and black shoes.
- 3 I'm happy with a furniture in my room, but I want to change the curtains.
- 4 I'm sending this card to wish you a good luck for your driving test.
- 5 My cousin's just been on a travel round France.
- 6 I listen to musics when I'm working so I feel more relaxed.
- 7 The weather was marvellous so we went to beach and swam in the sea.
- 8 I'll go to the swimming-pool for some informations about diving lessons.
- 9 If I send you a money, will you buy me some earrings like yours?
- 10 We saw some lovely old towns in Czech Republic on our last holiday.




1  **Read and listen to the instructions to the Exam Task below.**


- 1 How many questions are there?
- 2 Who will you hear? What will they talk about?
- 3 What do you have to do?

2 **Look at the Exam Task and guess what kinds of words are missing.**

- 1 Look at Question 14. You'll listen for a ..... here. How do you know?
- 2 Look at Question 15. What kind of word do you need here? How do you know? Think of some words which might fit this space.
- 3 Look at Question 16. You'll listen for the name of a ..... here. Think of some words which might fit this space.
- 4 Look at Question 17. You'll listen for a ..... here. How do you know?
- 5 Look at Question 18. What kind of information can go here? How do you know?
- 6 Look at Question 19. What kind of word do you need here? How do you know? Think of some words which might fit this space.

3  **Listen to the recording the first time.**

Try to answer as many questions as you can. If you miss a gap, don't worry. You can fill it in the second time you listen.

4  **Listen to the recording again.**

Check the answers you wrote the first time. Fill in any answers you missed.

5 **Check your answers.**

- How many words or numbers did you write in each space?
- Is the meaning correct?
- Is the grammar correct?
- Is the spelling correct?

**Exam tip!** .....  
You usually only write one or two words, and never more than three.

▶ .....  
GRAMMAR page 148, Exercise 82  
VOCABULARY page 159, Exercises 35–36

## Part 3

### Questions 14–19

You will hear a man talking on the radio about a new sports and fitness centre.  
For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

### Crossways sports and fitness centre

The sports centre opens on (14) .....

The fitness centre has a view across the (15) .....

The indoor sports offered are squash, volleyball, (16) ..... and table tennis.

The new swimming pool is (17) ..... metres in length.

You can book a class at (18) ..... or by phone.

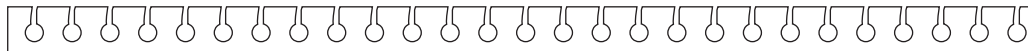

(19) ..... pay less on Wednesdays.

## D Exam practice

### Listening Part 3

Before you listen, look at questions **1–6** in the notebook below. Which of the spaces need a noun?

**8b** You will hear a tour guide talking to some tourists about the town of Medbury.  
For each question, fill in the missing information in the numbered space.

	
<u>Tour of Medbury</u>	
The craft market has been in Medbury since <b>(1)</b>	.....
The guide recommends buying <b>(2)</b>	..... for presents.
The shoe factory is now a <b>(3)</b>	.....
The nearest bank is next to the <b>(4)</b>	.....
The fastest way to travel from London to Medbury is by <b>(5)</b>	.....
<b>(6)</b>	..... is available in the kiosk.
	

### Grammar focus task

Look at the words you put in the spaces.

- 1 Which words are nouns? .....
- 2 Which of these are countable? .....
- 3 Which are uncountable? .....
- 4 How many words did you write in (5)? .....