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Singular and Plural Nouns

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Singular nouns refer to one person, idea or thing.

Ajit bought a *gift* for his mother.

Plural nouns refer to more than one person, idea or thing.

Ajit bought many *gifts* for his sister.

There are several ways to form plurals of singular nouns.

1. We add *-s* to make some nouns plural.

chair ~ chairs

picture ~ pictures

2. If a noun ends in *-s*, *-ss*, *-x*, *-sh* or *-ch*, we add *-es* to form the plural.

bus ~ buses

box ~ boxes

church ~ churches

loss ~ losses

wish ~ wishes

3. If a noun ends in *-y* and there is a consonant before the *-y*, we drop the *-y* and add *-ies*.

baby ~ babies

lady ~ ladies

4. If a noun ends in *-y* and there is a vowel before the *-y*, add *-s*.

boy ~ boys

toy ~ toys

5. From most nouns that end in *-f* or *-fe*, we drop the *-f* or *-fe* and add *-ves*.

knife ~ knives

leaf ~ leaves

6. To most nouns that end in *-o*, we add *-es*.

man o ~ mangoes

tomato ~ tomatoes

7. Some nouns **remain unchanged** in the plural.

sheep ~ sheep

deer ~ deer

fish ~ fish

aircraft ~ aircraft

8. Some nouns **change in an irregular manner**.

ox ~ oxen

foot ~ feet

9. There are some nouns that are **always plural**.

scissors

trousers

clothes

10. Sometimes the plural is formed by adding *-s* to the main word in a compound word.

son-in-law ~ sons-in-law sister-in-law ~ sisters-in-law

Keep in Mind

When we change the singular nouns in a sentence into their plural forms, we often need to make some other changes in the sentence.

a/one cup ~ many cups

this cup ~ these cups

that cup ~ those cups

The cup is red. ~ The cups are red.

The cup was broken. ~ The cups were broken.

The cup has a handle. ~ The cups have handles.

his/her/its cup ~ their cups

Change the nouns in red into plurals. Make other necessary changes and rewrite the sentences.

1. An **ox** is ploughing the field. .
2. That **knife** is blunt. .
3. The **child** took part in the debate. .
4. A **rabbit** has long ears. .
5. The **policeman** was running after the thief. .
6. I don't remember where your **photograph** is. .

B Change the nouns in red into their singular forms. Make other necessary changes and rewrite the sentences.

1. The **sons-in-law** held a meeting with their fathers. .

2. The **mares** gave birth to many foals.

3. You must change your **toothbrushes** every month.

4. The **ponies** were tired after the journey uphill.

5. The **women** wore traditional dresses for the school function.

6. The **dwarfs** were friendly creatures.

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

- Some nouns refer to entities that we can count. Such nouns are called **countable nouns**. Countable nouns have singular and plural forms. We use *a, an, many, some, any, few* or *a few* before these

nouns. *a* bird ~ *ten* birds

a book ~ *three* books

an umbrella ~ *five* umbrellas

- Some nouns refer to entities that we cannot count. Such nouns are called **uncountable nouns**. Uncountable nouns are always used in the singular.

air information weather meat milk music

- We use expressions like *enough, much, some, any, little, a little, a lot of* or *plenty of* before some uncountable nouns to indicate quantity.

some food *a pinch of* salt *a li le* sugar

plenty of water *some* advice *a piece of* advice

a can of cola

a spoonful of sugar

three packets of salt

two cubes of sugar

two jugs of water

- Sometimes we count the number of containers which contain these uncountable things to express quantity.

a bucket of water

a glass of water



- *Some* and *any* can be used with both countable and uncountable nouns.

some books *some* water
any cups *any* coffee

Given below are some other uncountable nouns and their usage.

bread	<i>a loaf of</i> bread	<i>a slice of</i> bread
furniture	<i>a piece of</i> furniture	<i>a lot of</i> furniture
hair	<i>a few strands of</i> hair	<i>a strand of</i> hair
ink	<i>several bottles of</i> ink	<i>many cartridges of</i> ink
tea	<i>a cup of</i> tea	<i>a kettle of</i> tea

C Underline the countable nouns and circle the uncountable nouns.

1. Alisha likes to eat biscuits with milk.
2. Sheetal found a strand of hair in her soup.
3. Shalini's hair is very long.
4. The monkey ate five bananas and some nuts.
5. We cannot survive without food and water.
6. I have some apples in my bag.
7. May I have a glass of water?
8. The teacher carried two books with her.
9. How much money is needed to buy two litres of sunflower oil?
10. Most children love ice cream.



Underline the correct words from those given in brackets.

1. Add (a little/many) salt to the dish.
2. Geeta bought (a/a loaf of) bread, six eggs and (a bottle of/ much) milk from the shop.
3. Jalan had (enough/few) money to buy a new suit.
4. The carpenter does not earn (much/many) money.
5. The child had (some/few) milk before he went to sleep.
6. Deepak felt uncomfortable after having too (many/much) food.
7. Do you have (any/many) information about the missing boy?



E Rewrite the following sentences correctly.

1. There is too many sugar in my cup of tea.

2. How much books do you have?

3. My grandmother gave me many advices.

4. The professor has a lot of knowledges.

5. There is a few rice left in the plate.

6. The mason carried much bricks up the st irs.

7. How many furnitures did you buy for your new house?

8. There are lots of dusts in this room.

9. The painting con est was cancelled because there was few participants.

10. In w nter the mountains get covered with snows.
