

Singular and Plural Nouns

LECTURE 2



Singular and Plural Nouns

- A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea.
- In common , the first page of English grammar book tells you about nouns. Nouns give names of concrete or abstract things in our lives. As babies learn "mom," "dad," or "milk" as their first word, nouns should be the first topic when you study a foreign language.

For the plural form of most nouns, add s.

bottle – bottles

cup – cups

pencil – pencils

desk – desks

sticker – stickers

window – windows

For nouns that end in ch, x, s, or s sounds, add es.

box – boxes

watch – watches

moss – mosses

bus – buses

For nouns ending in f or fe, change f to v and add es.

wolf – wolves

wife – wives

leaf – leaves

life – lives

Some nouns have different plural forms.

child – children

woman – women

man – men

mouse – mice

Nouns ending in vowels like y or o do not have definite rules.

baby – babies

toy – toys

kidney – kidneys

potato – potatoes

memo – memos

stereo – stereos

A few nouns have the same singular and plural forms.

sheep – sheep

deer – deer

series – series

species – species

Quiz 1

Choose the correct form of the noun in each sentence.

- 1) I have three (child, children).
- 2) There are five (man, men) and one (woman, women).
- 3) (Baby, Babies) play with bottles as toys.
- 4) I put two big (potato, potatoes) in the lunch box.
- 5) A few men wear (watch, watches).
- 6) I put a (memo, memos) on the desk.
- 7) I saw a (mouse, mice) running by.

Count Nouns vs. Non-Count Nouns

1. Count nouns

Can be counted as one or more.

a. Take an s to form the plural.

Examples

pen, computer, bottle, spoon, desk, cup, television, chair, shoe, finger, flower, camera, stick, balloon, book, table, comb, etc.

B. Work with expressions such as (a few, few, many, some, every, each, these, and the number of).

pens, computers, bottles, spoons, desks, cups, televisions, chairs, shoes, fingers, flowers, cameras, sticks, balloons, books, tables, combs, etc.

a few pens, a few computers, many bottles, some spoons, every desk, each cup, these televisions, the number of chairs, a few shoes, a few fingers, many flowers, some cameras, every stick, each balloon, these books, the number of tables, many combs, etc.

C. Work with appropriate articles (a, an, or the).

a pen, the computer, a bottle, the spoon, a desk, the cup, a television, the chair, a shoe, the finger, a flower, the camera, a stick, the balloon, a book, the table, a comb, etc.

Note. Do NOT work with much (for example, you would never say much pens or much computers).

Non-count nouns

Cannot be counted. They usually express a group or a type.

water, wood, ice, air, oxygen, English, Spanish, traffic, furniture, milk, wine, sugar, rice, meat, flour, soccer, sunshine, etc.

Generally cannot be pluralized.

➤ Work both with and without an article (a, an, or the), depending on the context of the sentence.

Sugar is sweet.

The sunshine is beautiful.

I drink milk.

He eats rice.

We watch soccer together.

The wood is burning.

➤ Work with expressions such as (some, any, enough, this, that, and much).

We ate some rice and milk.

I hope to see some sunshine today.

This meat is good.

She does not speak much Spanish.

Do you see any traffic on the road?

That chair is very old.

Note/ Do NOT work with expressions such as (these, those, every, each, either, or neither).

Quiz 2

Choose all of the non-count nouns in the following list:

student, pen, water, wind, milk, computer, furniture, cup, rice, box, watch, potato, wood

Nouns and determiners

Determiners are used to make uncountable nouns countable:

Please give me **2kg of** rice.

I would like **some** coffee.

Do you have **a lot of** time?

There isn't **much** space in my flat.

I only have **(a) little** time. Make it quick.

some and **any**

(→rules apply for 'somebody', 'anything', etc.)

pos.: I have **some** apples.

neg.: I don't have **any** apples.

ques.: Do you have **any** apples?

but:

offer: Would you like **some** coffee? (yes)

expectation: Have you got **some** news? (yes)

'no limit': You can do **any** exercise you want to.

Possessive Nouns

Possessive nouns are used to indicate ownership.

Possessive nouns usually are formed by adding an apostrophe (') and s.

John's book

Ahamed's car

Grandma's mirror

When a noun is plural and ends in s, just add an apostrophe (').

The kids' toys

My parents' house

The teachers' lounge

If two people own separate things, add the apostrophe and s for each person.

Susan's and Beth's books

Jon's and Dan's pants

Ben's and Jim's offices

Quiz 3

Which of the following is not correct?

1)Dr. Huda has a new computer.

2)Dr. Huda's new computer is working well.

3)Dr. Hudas' computer is new.