

Nouns, determiners and pronouns

A Starting activities

1 Have you made any progress?

Uncountable nouns and determiners

- 1 Work as a class. There are three countable nouns in this list. Which are they? (The rest are all uncountable.)

book	knowledge
bread	love
cream	progress
gold	weather
jam	work
oil	accommodation
snow	cupboard
wind	English
wood	equipment
advice	furniture
football match	homework
fun	luggage
help	music
happiness	rubbish
health	traffic
information	

When you have finished, look at Activity note 33 on page 145.

- 2 Work as a class. Here are some determiners that can go before uncountable nouns: *any, enough, (only a) little, more, most (of the), much, some, no, all (of) the*. Put each of the determiners above into a different sentence with the noun *homework*. Example: *Is there any homework?*
- 3 Work in pairs. Write a two-sentence dialogue. Use one of the uncountable nouns from 1 above and one of the determiners from 2 above in each sentence. Example:
A: *Have you made any progress?*
B: *Yes, we've moved all the furniture.*

2 The police are on the way

Singular and plural nouns

- 1 Work as a class. Which of the nouns below are followed by a singular verb and which are followed by a plural verb?

Nouns: *police, news, people, politics, clothes, pyjamas, shoes, economics, trousers, glasses, scissors, mathematics, goods, savings, premises*

When you have finished, look at Activity note 39 on page 147.

- 2 Work in pairs. Write five sentences. Each sentence must include one of the nouns from above and each must be six words long. Examples: *My glasses are on the table.*
The news is all bad today.
- 3 Work as a class. List one sentence for each noun that people in the class wrote. Imagine that pairs of the sentences that you list are in the same conversation. Find the shortest way of linking the two sentences so they make sense together. Example: *My glasses are on the table. No, on second thoughts don't pass them to me. I won't read the paper after all because the news is all bad today.*

3 Everybody needs somebody to love

Indefinite pronouns

Work in pairs. Make up eight song titles, one for each of the indefinite pronouns in the list below, like this: *Something tells me you're the one for me.*

Indefinite pronouns: *anybody (or anyone), anything, everybody (or everyone), everything, nobody (or no one), nothing, somebody (or someone), something*

B Grammar guide

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- 1 Uncountable nouns and determiners** ■ Uncountable nouns always take a singular verb and have no plural form. We do not use *a/an* before an uncountable noun.
Love is blind. We are making good progress. (NOT a good progress)
Many uncountable nouns have a general meaning and also a specific meaning. We can use *the* in the specific meaning.
Cream is fattening. (All cream, general)
The cream on that cake looks nice. (That cream, specific)
We can also use expressions like *a bit of* (which is informal), *a piece of*, *a loaf/slice of* (bread), *a lump of* (sugar) before uncountable nouns.
That's a lot to pay for a loaf of bread.
- Here are some common uncountable nouns.
Substances: *bread, chocolate, cheese, coffee, cream, gold, hair, jam, oil, paper, snow, wind, wood.*
Abstract nouns: *advice, experience, fun, help, happiness, health, information, knowledge, love, progress, weather, work.*
Nouns that are uncountable in English but are often countable in other languages: *accommodation, English, music, equipment, furniture, homework, luggage, rubbish, traffic.*
- These determiners are used before uncountable nouns: *any, enough, (only a) little, more, most (of the), a lot of (the), much, some, all (of) the.*
We use *much* in questions and negative sentences and *a lot of* in positive sentences.
Have you got much homework to do?
There isn't much cheese left.
You need a lot of equipment to go mountain climbing.
We use *some* in positive sentences and in questions when we want the answer *yes*. We use *any* (to talk about quantity) in other questions and in negative sentences.
There's some lemonade in the fridge.
Would you like some of my home-made cake?
Is there any milk in the fridge?
The passport office didn't give us any information at all.
NOTE We can use *no* with a positive verb.
We have no food left. (= We don't have any food left.)
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- 2 Singular and plural nouns** ■ These nouns are plural, so use a plural verb with them: *clothes, police*. So are clothes with two parts like *pyjamas, pants, trousers*, things with two parts such as *scissors, glasses, scales* and some words ending in *s*, for example, *goods, premises, savings, outskirts, grounds*.
- These nouns ending in *s* are singular and take a singular verb: *mathematics, politics, economics, news*.
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- 3 Indefinite pronouns** Indefinite pronouns like *anybody* (or *anyone*), *anything*, *everybody* (or *everyone*), *everything*, *nobody* (or *no one*), *nothing*, *somebody* (or *someone*) and *something* are followed by a singular verb.
Everyone we know has a television.

C Activities

1 History never repeats itself

Uncountable nouns

- 1 Work in pairs or groups. Choose some of the words below and think of or make up proverbs, sayings or slogans using them, like this:

History never repeats itself. All you need is love. Justice for the poor.

Words: *age, anger, childhood, courage, death, education, evil, experience, failure, fashion, freedom, happiness, health, history, justice, loneliness, love, luck, music, power, truth, violence, work, youth*

- 2 Work as a class. Make a list of all the proverbs, sayings or slogans that people in the class have thought of or made up.
- 3 Work in pairs or groups. Plan a strip cartoon to illustrate one of the proverbs, sayings or slogans. Your strip cartoon can have from four to six drawings. Each drawing must have a caption below it and can include speech bubbles where the characters speak to each other. When you have finished, show your cartoon to other pairs or groups and see if they can guess which proverb, saying or slogan your cartoon is about.

2 The smallest country in the world

Singular and plural nouns

- 1 Work as a class. Imagine that the smallest country in the world is an island. It is a very pleasant, perhaps an ideal, place. Agree on a name for the country and decide on these things:

Population of the country

Population of the capital

Capital city (name)

Main natural resources

Unit of currency

Main industries

Agriculture

Newspapers (names)

Main exports

Flag

- 2 Work in pairs or groups. Describe the country using the nouns below as naturally as possible. Talk about these things: the economy of the country, the political system, the education system, the police, the main problems facing the country at the moment, the country's relations with your country (tourism, state visits, loans etc.).

Nouns: *arms, headquarters, handcuffs, people, police, talks, troops, goods, premises, savings, outskirts, grounds, clothes (uniform), trousers, politics, economics*

3 Everyone I meet asks for my autograph

Indefinite pronouns

- 1 Work in pairs. Imagine that you are one of the people below. As far as possible, each pair should choose a different person so that all four people (a–d) are chosen.

People

- a The most famous professional sportsperson in the world. (Who?)
- b A person who leads or led a very good life (like Mother Theresa).
- c A person who is under a lot of stress (perhaps a business person or a politician).
- d A homeless person who sleeps on the streets.

Make sentences about your life using one of the indefinite pronouns in each sentence.

Example: *Everyone I meet asks for my autograph.*

Indefinite pronouns: *anybody, anyone, anything, everybody, everyone, everything, nobody, no one, nothing, somebody, someone, something*

- 2 Work as a class. Say your sentences to the class. List some sentences about the people whose lives you did not talk about.
- 3 Work as a class. Choose one of the four people and describe a day in his or her life using as many of your sentences as you realistically can.

D Accuracy practice

1 Which of these are **WRONG**? There is sometimes more than one which is **WRONG**.

- 1 Let me give you (a) a piece of advice. (b) some advice. (c) some advices.
- 2 Do you want (a) a piece of bread? (b) some bread? (c) breads?
- 3 I have (a) homeworks (b) some homeworks (c) some homework for you.
- 4 Can I have (a) some (b) any chocolate, please?
- 5 He has (a) not (b) no experience of this kind of work.
- 6 You need (a) much (b) a lot of sugar to make this cake.
- 7 Would you like two lumps of (a) sugars? (b) sugar?
- 8 There's (a) any (b) much (c) a lot of (d) no paper for the photocopier. We'll have to get some more.
- 9 I got (a) an (b) some (c) much information about France from the tourist office.
- 10 He doesn't have (a) some (b) much (c) an experience of working in an office.

2 Put in the nouns and the correct form of the verbs (singular or plural) in the present simple to complete the sentences.

Nouns: *politics, goods, clothes, news, glasses, scissors, police*

Verbs: *arrive, spend, be (×2), have, need, not have to*

- 1 All the _____ on television _____ bad again.
- 2 Just how many _____ she got?
- 3 These _____ sharpening.
- 4 If _____ damaged they can be replaced.
- 5 _____ be left to politicians.
- 6 The _____ a lot of time trying to prevent crime.
- 7 My _____ on the table in that red glasses case.

3 Put in the correct indefinite pronouns to complete the sentences.

anybody (or anyone) (×3), anything, everybody (or everyone), everything, nobody (or no one), nothing

- 1 Little Ronnie has disappeared. _____ knows where he is.
- 2 Has _____ seen Aunt Harriet since dinner time?
- 3 _____ says he won't come back here but I think he will.
- 4 _____ I tell him seems to make any difference. He won't take advice from _____.
- 5 You were all here when the accident happened. Didn't _____ notice _____?
- 6 Come in. _____ is a bit untidy I'm afraid. Sorry.