

Exercises Chapter 1

1 What are nouns? (1.1)

Decide whether the following are proper or common nouns. If they're common nouns, state whether they're countable or uncountable (or both) and explain your answer.

- 1 February _____
- 2 month _____
- 3 kindness _____
- 4 tea _____
- 5 amount _____
- 6 child _____
- 7 people _____
- 8 belongings _____
- 9 tree _____
- 10 production _____

2 How to make nouns plural (1.2.2)

Make the following nouns plural.

- 1 deer _____
- 2 fish (2 plural forms) _____
- 3 visa _____
- 4 box _____
- 5 dandy _____
- 6 photo _____
- 7 crisis _____
- 8 potato _____
- 9 fungus _____
- 10 bus _____

3 **Plural-only nouns (1.2.3)**

Choose the correct form of the verb.

- 1 My furniture **was** / **were** ruined by the fire.
- 2 The Netherlands **has** / **have** a small area.
- 3 The surroundings **is** / **are** absolutely breathtaking
- 4 Billiards **is** / **are** my favourite game.
- 5 The acoustics in this building **is** / **are** very bad.
- 6 The police **has** / **have** asked me questions.
- 7 It is unknown what the contents of this letter **is** / **are**.
- 8 Statistics **isn't** / **aren't** a very popular subject.
- 9 The cattle **is** / **are** grazing in the meadow.
- 10 My visa **has** / **have** expired.

4 **It looks like a plural but is it? (1.2.4)**

Choose the correct alternative. If both alternatives are possible, explain the difference in meaning between the singular and the plural nouns.

- 1 If you have something to declare, go through **custom** / **customs**.
- 2 Draw a circle with your **compasses** / **compass**.
- 3 You have to read the **term** / **terms** of the contract very carefully.
- 4 He has good **look** / **looks**.
- 5 He took great **pain** / **pains** to help the homeless.
- 6 We had an excursion around an **explosives** / **explosive** factory.
- 7 My **glass** / **glasses** **was** / **were** broken.
- 8 The pliers **is** / **are** in the drawer.

5 **Neither a borrower nor a lender be (1.5)**

Decide for each of the verbs between parentheses whether it should be singular or plural and choose verb tense.

- 1 Either the professor or the students _____ (HAVE) eaten all the secretary's chocolates.
- 2 Both Albert and Filip _____ (BE) the King of Belgium.
- 3 Exhaust fumes, along with thick smoke, _____ (BE) the main cause of smog.
- 4 If the bus or the train _____ (BE) delayed, passengers may be entitled to compensation.
- 5 Both Kirk and Spock _____ (GET) into dangerous situations with hostile aliens.

6 Nouns that look like verbs: gerunds (1.6)

Decide whether you need to use a gerund form (noun) or to + infinitive (verb) of the verb between parentheses.

- 1 Don't forget _____ (SAY) hello to your folks.
- 2 If you continue _____ (BEHAVE) like this, you'll end up _____ (DO) time in prison.
- 3 My mum likes _____ (WASH) her car on Sunday morning.
- 4 We look forward to _____ (HEAR) from you.
- 5 _____ (RUN) around the fjords naked is a favourite Norwegian pastime.
- 6 He stopped for a moment _____ (THINK) about my question.
- 7 I prefer _____ (PLAY) snooker to badminton.
- 8 Did you remember _____ (DELIVER) the package to the post office?
- 9 It's no use _____ (TRY) to shoot a mosquito with a machine gun.