

## Answers to the exercises Chapter 1

### 1 What are nouns? (1.1)

- 1 **February** proper
- 2 **month** common; countable
- 3 **kindness** common; uncountable
- 4 **tea** common; countable (Dutch: *kopje thee*); common uncountable (Dutch: *thee*)
- 5 **amount** common; countable
- 6 **child** common; countable
- 7 **people** common; countable (Dutch: *een volk*); common; plural only (Dutch: *mensen*)
- 8 **belongings** common; plural only
- 9 **tree** common; countable
- 10 **production** common; countable (Dutch: *film-, toneelproductie* etc.); common; uncountable

### 2 How to make nouns plural (1.2.2)

- 1 **deer** deer
- 2 **fish** (2 plural forms) fish; fishes
- 3 **visa** visas
- 4 **box** boxes
- 5 **dandy** dandies
- 6 **photo** photos
- 7 **crisis** crises
- 8 **potato** potatoes
- 9 **fungus** fungi; funguses
- 10 **bus** buses; busses (Am. Eng.)

### 3 Plural-only nouns (1.2.3)

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

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

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

5 Neither a borrower nor a lender be (1.5)

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

6 Nouns that look like verbs: gerunds (1.6)

- 1 Don't forget **to say** hello to your folks.
- 2 If you continue **behaving** like this, you'll end up **doing** time in prison.
- 3 My mum likes **to wash** her car on Sunday morning.
- 4 We look forward to **hearing** from you.
- 5 **Running** around the fjords naked is a favourite Norwegian pastime.
- 6 He stopped for a moment **to think** about my question.
- 7 I prefer **playing** snooker to badminton.
- 8 Did you remember **to deliver** the package at the post office?
- 9 It's no use **trying** to shoot a mosquito with a machine gun.