

Singular nouns and plural nouns

We use a **singular noun** when we refer to only one person or thing.

Examples: ball, apple, television

We use a **plural noun** when we refer to more than one person or thing. We add -s to some nouns to make them plural.

Examples: balls, apples, televisions

Some plural nouns have other spelling rules.

Spelling rule	Examples
Add -es to nouns that end in: -ch -sh -s -x -z	one watch → many watches one crash → many crashes one dress → many dresses one fox → many foxes one buzz → many buzzes
Add -s to a noun that ends with a vowel and -y.	one donkey → many donkeys
If a word ends in a consonant and -y, we change the -y to an -i and add -es.	one daisy → many daisies

1. Underline the singular nouns and circle the plural nouns in the sentences below.

- There are twelve months in a year.
- The telephone gave three rings.
- They built a new kennel for their puppies.
- Please bring matches or a lighter to light the candles.
- I found the keys in the keyholder.
- Mandisa got many wishes on her birthday.

2. Fill in the plural form of the noun in brackets to complete these sentences.

- They sat on the (couch) _____.
- The (clock) _____ have stopped.
- We can sleep late on (Saturday) _____.
- We waited for the (taxi) _____ and (bus) _____.
- Good citizens pay their (tax) _____.
- The (lorry) _____ are travelling fast.



Help

To form plural nouns, look at the way singular nouns end.

Countable nouns and uncountable nouns

Countable nouns are objects and things we can count.

Examples: bicycles, pens, houses, apples, jerseys

Countable nouns can be singular or plural.

Examples: Noluntu baked a cake. Sally baked two cakes.

Uncountable nouns are substances or things that we cannot separate to count.

Examples: water, information, hail, rice

We do not use the articles *a* and *an* in front of uncountable nouns, but we can use the articles *the*, *some* or *any*.

Example: Would you like some juice?

Some nouns are always plural.

Examples: trousers, scissors, clothes

↓ article

↑ uncountable noun

1. Complete the table below with the nouns in the margin. The first one has been done for you.

Countable nouns	Uncountable nouns
	oil

oil coffee
T-shirt
information
hair
chips
matches
camera
scarves
music
shoes
juice

2. Use the nouns from the margin to complete this paragraph.

Last Saturday I went to watch a soccer game. I was dressed in comfortable _____ and a _____. I took pictures of the game using my _____. I drank _____ and ate some _____. When it got cooler, I drank some hot _____ and wrapped two _____ around my neck. I enjoyed the game and the _____ that was played at half-time.