

## Nouns: countable and uncountable, singular and plural

**Nouns** are naming words. They name people, places, animals, things, feelings and ideas. Nouns can be countable or uncountable.

**Countable nouns** have a singular form and a plural form. We can use a number or *a/an* before a countable noun.

**Examples:** One **boy** reads a **book**. Three **boys** read three **books**.

↑ singular – one
↑ plural – two or more

**Uncountable nouns** refer to things that cannot be counted. Most uncountable nouns are singular. We cannot use a number or *a/an* before an uncountable noun.

**Example:** There is some **sunlight** after all the **rain**.

↑ uncountable nouns

Spelling rules to change nouns from singular to plural	Example
Add -s to many nouns to make them plural.	goat – goats; plant – plants
Add -es to nouns ending in -s, -sh, -ch or -x.	wish – wishes; box – boxes (exception ox – oxen)
Drop the -y and add -ies for words that end in -y. (Unless the -y comes after the -e.)	party – parties; lady – ladies
If a word ends in -f, drop the -f and add -ves.	leaf – leaves; thief – thieves (but there are exceptions, such as chief – chiefs)
Some nouns stay the same in the singular and plural forms.	fish, buck, sheep
Some nouns change completely when they are plural.	child – children; woman – women

1. Circle the singular nouns and underline the plural nouns in the list below.

limb nail teeth hairs chest feet hair bodies

2. Sort the singular nouns in the list below into the correct plural rule column in the table. Rewrite each noun in its plural form. The first one has been done for you.

picture country bush nurse story knife peach loaf fly  
egg family computer wolf tomato class

-s	-es	-ies	-ves
pictures			

3. Rewrite the bold nouns in the sentences below in the correct plural forms. The first one has been done for you.

- a) I go to dance **class** (classes) on Monday **night** (nights).
- b) Please wipe your muddy **foot** (\_\_\_\_\_) before you enter the **classroom** (\_\_\_\_\_).
- c) Our tuckshop sells **sandwich** (\_\_\_\_\_), **hamburger** (\_\_\_\_\_) and **cooldrink** (\_\_\_\_\_).
- d) I helped put up the **shelf** (\_\_\_\_\_) in the **library** (\_\_\_\_\_).

4. Write the nouns in the list below in the correct column in the table. The first one has been done for you.

teacher   herd   stone   salt   swarm   coffee   dish   family  
 weather   pack   hospital   electricity   hair   teeth

Countable nouns	Uncountable nouns
teacher	

5. Underline the uncountable noun in each sentence. Tick the sentences where the uncountable noun is correct and put a cross next to the sentences where the uncountable noun is incorrect. Write out the incorrect sentences correctly.

- a) The miners dug up the golds from underground. (X)  
The miners dug up the gold from underground.
- b) The bread is fresh today. (\_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Our teacher gave us lots of informations for our project. (\_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Waters is precious, we must save it. (\_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Many families eat rice everyday. (\_\_\_)  
 \_\_\_\_\_