

Facts, evidence and data

Fact is something that is known to have happened or to exist, especially something for which proof exists or about something we have information about... **Evidence** supports why something is the way it is. There are no facts without evidence. **Data** are facts or numbers collected to be examined in research. Data can be also stored in computer understandable form and so they can be analyzed by computer automatically.

Countable or uncountable nouns

Countable nouns are for things we can count using numbers. They have a **singular** and a **plural form**. The singular form of countable nouns can use the determiner **“a”** or **“an”** and in the plural form can be used before them a **number, some** or **any**. Anything that cannot be counted is an **uncountable noun**. Even though uncountable nouns are not individual objects, they are always singular and one must always use singular verbs in conjunction with uncountable nouns. Before uncountable nouns can be used expressions of quantity **some, any** or **a lot of**.

Words often used with facts, evidence and data

NOUNS	USEFUL WORDS		
Facts	Facts are ____.	To ____ facts.	Facts ____ something.
(countable noun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - relevant - interesting - undeniable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to present - to establish - to account for - to stem from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bear out - confirm - support
Evidence	Evidence is ____.	To ____ evidence.	Evidence ____.
(uncountable noun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - convincing - flimsy - abundant - contradictory - conflicting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to look for - to collect - to examine - to consider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - come to light - support - show - point to
Data	Data are ____.	To ____ data.	Data ____ something.
(uncountable / plural noun)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reliable - comprehensive - accurate - empirical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to obtain - to organise - to analyse - to interpret - to record 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suggest - reflect - indicate - show - demonstrate

Giving examples

Writers and presenters may give specific examples as evidence to support their general claims or arguments. Examples can also be used to help the reader or listener understand unfamiliar or difficult concepts, and they tend to be easier to remember. For this reason, they are often used in teaching.

Students may be required to give examples in their work to demonstrate that they have understood a complex problem or concept. It is important to note that when statements are supported with examples, the explicit language signalling this may not always be used.

We can divide examples into three groups:

1. Examples as the **main information** in a sentence
 - For example, the word “doctor” used to mean a “learned man”.
 - Young people begin smoking for a variety of reasons. They may, **for example**, be influenced by
2. Examples as **additional information**
 - The prices of resources, **such as copper, iron ore, and aluminium**, have declined over ...
 - Many diseases can result at least in part from stress, **including: arthritis, asthma, and migraine**.
3. Reporting cases as **support**
 - This case study confirms the importance of ...
 - As this case very clearly demonstrates, it is important that ...