

Nouns

D Rewrite these sentences into the plural.

1. My tooth hurts whenever I drink cold water.
My teeth hurt whenever I drink cold water.
2. A galaxy is a huge family of stars and planets.
3. The boy was holding a torch when he entered the cave.
4. The child found a starfish while swimming near the rocks.
5. A giraffe can run up to 56 km/h.
6. A cello is made of wood.
7. The woman's luggage was very heavy. She had packed a lot of clothes.
8. A magnifying glass is a lens made of glass or plastic which makes an object

F Circle the correct word. In some sentences both words may be correct.

1. The Moore family is / are going to appear on a TV gameshow next week.
2. The people in my neighbourhood is / are organising a demonstration against nuclear weapons.
3. Binoculars is / are a device which helps you see things that are far away.
4. A famous team of actors is / are touring France these days. Their performances are spectacular.
5. The news is / are broadcast on TV every evening at 9:00 p.m..
6. There is / are more than 250 species of shark. The best known species is / are the great white.
7. I don't have any money. All my money is / are in the bank.
8. A group of architects is / are designing the new shopping centre.
9. The audience is / are clapping wildly. The concert was a great success.
10. My work is / are very tiring. I'm on my feet all day.
11. My black trousers is / are dirty. I'll wear something else.
12. The television series "Happy Life" is / are on three times a week.

G Cross out the wrong word.

1. My hair ~~are~~ / is too long. I need a haircut.
2. Your advice was / were valuable. Thanks!
3. Iron is / are used for making cars, ships, buildings, machines etc.
4. The information you gave me about the trip were / was incorrect.
5. Oxen is / are used to pull carts in some countries.
6. The bread is / are over there. Could you get me some?
7. The police have / has caught the man that robbed the supermarket on Saturday.
8. The firemen were putting out the fire while passers-by was / were looking on in amazement.
9. Thunder come / comes after lightning because light travels / travel faster than sound.
10. Don't go to the city centre. There is / are always heavy traffic at this time.
11. Did you know that wild sheep lives / live in mountainous areas?
12. My feet are / is cold. Could you turn on the heater?
13. Milk contain / contains a lot of calcium and is / are an essential part of our everyday diet.

H Write the plural of these compound nouns.

cheesecake	<i>cheesecakes</i>
raincoat	
goldfish	
living-room	
wrist watch	
sunlight	
shoelace	
Christmas tree	
brother-in-law	
gentleman	

diving-board	
takeaway	
television set	
dog-house	
spelling mistake	
darkroom	
take-off	
shop assistant	
sleeping bag	
hold-up	

I Rewrite the sentences as in the example.

1. A strike that lasts two days. *A two-day strike.*
2. A holiday which is three weeks long.
3. A novel which has five-hundred pages.
4. A boy who is ten years old.
5. A drive that lasts for three hours.
6. A note which is worth ten pounds.

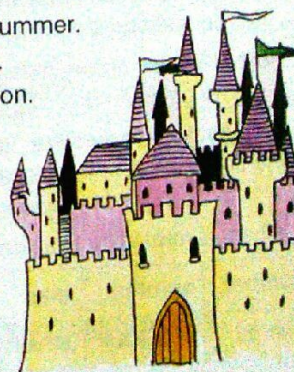
J Match the words to make compound nouns. Then, write sentences using the plural of the compound nouns.

driving	pilot
seat	school
can	belt
credit	ticket
litter	card
parking	centre
woman	opener
shopping	bin

There are many driving schools in my neighbourhood.

K Complete the sentences using the masculine or feminine form of the words in bold type.

1. Mr Thompson, a **widower**, married Ms Hill, a *widow*, last week.
2. Ted's **uncle** and _____ live in Finland and he's going to visit them this summer.
3. Both **waiters** and _____ work very long hours at the Hamburger Palace.
4. At the end of the story, the **hero** dies and the _____ continues the mission.
5. My **wife** is a mathematician and so is Mrs Clark's _____.
6. The **bride** was at church on time but the _____ was late.
7. Mr and Mrs Parker have got two children, a twelve-year-old **son** and a ten-year-old _____.
8. I saw "Home Is Where the Heart Is" at the theatre yesterday. Both the leading **actor** and leading _____ were awful.
9. My **niece** loves basketball but my _____ doesn't. He likes football.
10. Cinderella became a **princess** when she married the _____.



Concerned about Food?

ASK THE EXPERT



Mel Brand: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to *Ask the Expert*. I'm Mel Brand. The other day I glanced at a depressing headline in the local paper, which said "Is Anything Safe to Eat These Days?" With reports of mad cow disease, bird flu, contaminated water, and other food scares, it's not a bad question. Food and diet are things people are highly interested in these days, and our guest today is Dr. Miranda Olsen from the International Nutrition Institute. We'll be taking your questions in a moment. Dr. Olsen, welcome. What's the biggest issue in food today?

Dr. Olsen: Thanks for inviting me, Mel. I can answer your question in one word: convenience. The most obvious recent change is that we're living fast lives, with less time at our disposal. Everything revolves around speed and convenience, so there's a push for convenience eating and convenience food. More of us are eating out. If we don't eat out, we often go to supermarkets to pick up already-prepared food. Supermarkets have changed greatly from what they were in the past. They now sell full meals to take out. They also offer new products like packaged salad.

Mel Brand: All right, Dr. Olsen. Thanks for that overview. Now let's have some questions from our audience. Please give your name and tell us where you're from. Yes, the gentleman in the back.

Bob: I'm Bob Gonzales from Tampa, Florida. My question is about school lunches. My three children are all in high school, and they take lunches from home, which is OK. What I'm really concerned about, though, are the vending machines in the schools. They sell soda, candy, and snacks. I'm worried that the kids are filling up on sodas and chips and not eating what they should. Is there any nutrition in that kind of stuff? Am I worrying for nothing?

Dr. Olsen: No, you're not, Bob. You have reason to be concerned. There's very little nutrition in soda and snacks. Soda is loaded with sugar, and most snacks are just empty calories. School vending machines have become a big problem in many places. What usually happens is that big companies pay school districts to have vending machines there. The districts find it difficult to turn down the money. There's more and more opposition to having these machines in schools, though, and you can get rid of them.

Mel Brand:	OK. Another question? Yes, ma'am—in the third row.
Maria:	Yes, good morning, Dr. Olsen. I'm Maria Spring from Toronto, Ontario. My question is about diets. In my family we're really concerned about losing weight, so we've started using low-fat or fat-free food. The trouble is, we all hate it because it tastes so bland. Can you give me any advice?
Dr. Olsen:	Well, there's evidence that a nonfat or low-fat diet can actually lead to weight gain. My advice is to stay away from such diets. You can eat regular food in moderate quantities. Avoid sodas. Drink plenty of water and juice, and minimize your intake of salt and sugar. Make sure you eat five to eight servings a day of fruits and vegetables. And exercise at least three times a week. Play a couple of games of tennis. Take brisk walks. That should help your family to lose weight.
Mel Brand:	All right. Next question? Yes, the man in the back ...

AFTER YOU READ

What does the underlined word refer to? Circle the correct answer.

- People are highly interested in food.
 - food in general
 - a specific type of food
- There's very little nutrition in soda.
 - an individual serving of soda
 - soda in general
- My question is about diets.
 - diets in general
 - particular diets

Read the sentences based on the opening reading. Underline the count nouns. Circle the non-count nouns.

- With reports of mad cow disease, bird flu, contaminated water, and food scares, it's not a bad question.
- Food and diet are things people are interested in these days.
- What's the biggest issue in food today?
- We're living fast lives with less free time, so we seek convenience.
- I'm concerned about the vending machines that sell soda, candy, and snacks.
- Is there any nutrition in that kind of stuff?
- My family is concerned about losing weight, so we've started using low-fat or fat-free food.
- There's evidence that a nonfat or low-fat diet can actually lead to weight gain.

Complete each sentence with the correct phrase to give the non-countable noun a countable form.

1. When we moved to the new office, we lost a piece of equipment.
(a piece of / a pound of)
2. Let me give you a piece of advice: don't buy that item.
(a speck of / a piece of)
3. The floor was so clean that there wasn't a speck of dust anywhere.
(a speck of / a piece of)
4. Please get a pound of sugar when you're at the store.
(a pound of / a piece of)
5. Our office bought several new pieces of furniture.
(pieces of / matters of)
6. There hasn't been a drop of rain here for over a month.
(a drop of / a grain of)
7. We heard an interesting amount of news on the radio last night.
(amount of / piece of)
8. In our family it's customary to have a cup of tea late in the afternoon.
(a kilo of / a cup of)
9. What you order at a restaurant is a piece of choice.
(a piece of / a matter of)
10. You've had a reasonable branch of time to finish the job.
(branch of / period of)

Interactive websites on the Internet give people information about entertainment, cultural events, and the weather. Fill in the blanks in the bulletin board messages, choosing the correct count or non-count form in parentheses.

Community Bulletin Board for August 26, 2006

Poet Jefferson Saito will give a reading of his poetry tonight in the Burlington
1. (reading / a reading)

Civic Center. He describes his latest book of poems as a work in progress.
2. (work / a work) 3. (progress / a progress)

Community Bulletin Board for August 27, 2006

On Tuesday afternoon at 4 PM at City Hall, Professor Helen Hammond, who has

written a history of the space program, will give a talk on the
4. (history / a history) 5. (talk / a talk)

exploration of space in the 21st century at a time when we seem
6. (space / a space) 7. (time / a time)

to be running out of funds for the space program. Professor Hammond will focus on several
of the government's criteria for suggesting budget cuts.
8. (criterion / criteria)

Community Bulletin Board for August 28, 2006

If you have not made reservations for the annual Labor Day picnic, a time is
9. (time / a time)

running short. a work on the remodeling of Patton Pavilion, where the picnic
10. (Work / A work)

will be held, is complete. All residents of Burlington are invited, but you must have a ticket, which will cover the price of dinner. The menu will include _____, meat, and

11. (fish / a fish)

pasta as main courses. _____ and _____ are free.

12. (Soda / A soda)

13. (milk / a milk)

Community Bulletin Board for August 29, 2006

On Friday evening at 8:00 P.M. in the Civic Auditorium, Professor Mary Alice Waters will present a program on the Hmong, _____ of China and Laos. Professor Waters

14. (peoples / a people)

will show _____ about marriage customs of the Hmong and other

15. (film / a film)

_____ of Eastern Asia.

16. (people / peoples)