

30 Easily confused plural and singular forms

Activity A

Some Latin or Greek-based words have plural forms that are often confused. Look up the singular forms of these words in your dictionary and match them up with the definitions on the right.

bacteria criteria data media phenomena strata

plural	singular	
		1 a fact or an event in nature or society, especially one that is not fully understood
		2 a standard or principle by which something is judged
		3 a way of communicating information, etc. to people
		4 a layer of rock, or a class in a society
		5 facts or information, especially when examined and used to find out things or to make decisions
		6 the simplest and smallest forms of life

Activity B

Complete each sentence with an appropriate form of one of the nouns in A.

- 1 These _____ are fed into a supercomputer, which analyses them to produce a long-term weather forecast.
- 2 The research team is studying the unusual _____ that are often reported before major earthquakes.
- 3 The image shows a tuberculosis _____ under the microscope.
- 4 The different forecasting systems were evaluated by the _____ of whether or not they produced accurate results.
- 5 From the richest to the poorest, people of all social _____ were buried in the city cemetery.
- 6 'Déjà vu' is a _____ whereby you feel that you have previously experienced what you are experiencing now.
- 7 Ballet enthusiasts will enjoy this reworking of the story of Cinderella, told through the _____ of dance.
- 8 _____ are small single cells whose whole purpose in life is to replicate.
- 9 The company uses a range of _____ to advertise its products.
- 10 It depends on what _____ are used to define 'success'.