

Nouns (Countable, Uncountable, Singular & Plurals)

Lesson plan

Aim: To help students understand and use countable, uncountable, singular and plural nouns correctly.

Time: 60 minutes & homework task.

Delivery: This lesson can be delivered face-to-face or online. For online delivery, each worksheet could be placed in a class document on OneDrive.

Lead in

- Distribute **worksheet 1**. Students ask & answer questions in **task 1**.
- Feedback: nominate a few students to give their answers.
- Feedback: distribute or project the **writing criteria** for your course if you have one. Point out where nouns are assessed (broad range of language, accurate language use etc.).

Guided Practice

- Students complete **task 1**: categorise language.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 1 task 1 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 2**: circle the correct alternative in the sentence.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 1 task 2 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 3**: complete the paragraph by adding words to the gaps.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 1 task 3 ANSWERS**.
- Distribute **worksheet 2**. students complete **task 1**: match the rules to examples.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 1 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 2**: identifying errors.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 2 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 3**: match the noun patterns to examples.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 3 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 4**: identifying errors.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 4 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 5**: complete the paragraph using the given words.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 5 ANSWERS**.

Freer Practice

- Distribute **worksheet 3**. Students write a paragraph on job sharing with the aim of practising the language learnt.
- Students do peer feedback. Use the included **checklist**.
- Feedback: distribute or project the sample **ANSWER**.

Homework

- Students choose a topic connected to their studies and write a paragraph paying careful attention to the language learnt in the session.
- Teachers take in and mark. Use our error correction code.

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Worksheet 1: Countable & Uncountable Nouns

Lead in

- Discuss the following questions with your partner.
 1. What do you remember learning about nouns?
 2. Do you remember any rules about nouns?
 3. What teacher or peer feedback have you been given on your use of nouns?
 4. Have will your use of nouns be assessed on the course you are currently on?

Task 1

- Categorize the following nouns into countable, uncountable or both. Then compare with a partner.

awareness	mechanism	discomfort	discipline	result	population
onset	prospect	development	wastage	refusal	unemployment
misconduct	memory	leadership	efficiency	responsibility	approach
skill	legislation	decision	controversy	ability	communication

Countable	Uncountable	Both

Task 2

- Circle the correct option in the following sentences.
 1. Oxfam is raising awareness/awarenesses of the work it is doing in the fight against the spread of coronavirus.
 2. A successful manager requires excellent communication skill/skills.
 3. The population/populations of several Eastern European countries are predicted to drop by fifteen percent in the next thirty years.
 4. Many plant and animal species are threatened with extinction due to water wastage/wastages.
 5. New legislation/legislations regarding animal welfare is to be introduced in spring 2021.

Task 3

- Complete the gaps in the following paragraph with a word from task 1.

Bilingualism

It is claimed that forty-three per cent of the world's i) _____ is bilingual. In the past, the idea of a child learning to speak two languages simultaneously was often met with ii) _____, as many believed it would result in initial iii) _____ for the child and possibly iv) _____ to speak one of the languages. However, several experts in the field strongly believe that being bilingual can have huge benefits on a child's cognitive v) _____, including an excellent vi) _____, and increased communication vii) _____. Needless to say, the viii) _____ to speak more than one language can also lead to greater job ix) _____ potential for a higher salary and most importantly, more protection against the x) _____ of Alzheimer's.

Worksheet 2: Singular & Plural Nouns

Task 1

- Match the rules with the four examples, then compare with your partner.

Rule	Example
Irregular plurals and uncountable nouns have no final 's'.	<i>Homelessness in England has increased by 250% in the last ten years.</i>
General statements use the plural.	<i>Both the advantages and disadvantages will be discussed in this essay.</i>
Two connected nouns should agree.	<i>Further research into driverless cars is needed.</i>
Nouns need to agree with pronouns and verbs.	<i>Mountain gorillas are one of the most endangered species in the world.</i>

Task 2

- Identify the errors in the following sentences:
 - Resolving conflict within teams are challenging for managers.

 - The rate of extreme poverties is growing the most in Sub-Saharan Africa.

 - The advertisement today rely heavily on music and colour.

 - The difficulties with remote working is the dependence on a strong Internet connection.

 - Neither the politician nor the experts have handled this crisis well.

Task 3

- Match the patterns of language with the examples, then compare with your partner.

Noun Patterns	Examples
Singular + Plural	<i>Many types of leaders</i> <i>Nine hundred thousand species of insects</i>
Plural + Plural	<i>Economics is not just about finance</i> <i>Measles can be prevented via the MMR vaccine</i>
Plural + Uncountable	<i>A range of topics</i> <i>A number of variables</i>
Uncountable ending in 's' + singular verb	<i>Fields of research</i> <i>Patterns of behaviour</i>

Task 4

- Identify and correct the errors in the following sentences.

1. There are a number of characteristic that a good leader needs to possess.

2. Genetics are the study of similarities and differences of organisms and their inheritance.

3. It is believed that almost fifteen varieties of Spanish languages are spoken in South America.

4. A minority of people has expressed uncertainty towards the new Covid-19 vaccines.

5. These days clothes can be made with several kind of sustainable materials.

Task 5

- Complete the gaps in the following paragraph with a word or phrase from the box.

consumption	industry	waste	demand	supermarket chains	value
species	degradation	habitat	production	resource	growth
supply	landfill	packaging	household	food bank	price

Food waste

One the most worrying environmental issues affecting us all is the problem of food waste. It is claimed that over eighty per cent of food waste comes from i) _____, which in turn goes to ii) _____, causing the iii) _____ of several harmful gases. What is more, in order to produce the amount of food to feed our iv) _____ habits, a huge amount of land is required, resulting in severe v) _____ to many natural vi) _____. Moreover, a large number of vii) _____, such as water, manufacturing, viii) _____ and labour are needed, which puts even greater pressure on numerous ix) _____. Although x) _____ are somewhat to blame, by only selling the 'perfect' red tomato or the 'least wonky' carrot, food waste is ultimately a result of the consumerist society we all live in. Thus, it seems morally wrong to waste perfectly good produce when the number of people who rely on xi) _____ to feed their families is almost two million in the UK. Therefore, lowering our xii) _____ and educating ourselves better regarding the environmental repercussions would be a huge step forward.

Worksheet 3: Freer Practice

- Write a paragraph about job sharing. Pay particular attention to the language learnt in this session.

Write your paragraph here...

- Read through your partner's paragraph.

Has your partner...	Yes / No / Not Sure
incorporated a variety of countable and uncountable nouns?	
correctly identified when the noun used should be in its countable or uncountable form?	
accurately used plural nouns or uncountable nouns for general statements?	
shown evidence of noun patterns with both countable and uncountable nouns?	

Nouns (Countable, Uncountable, Singular & Plurals) **ANSWERS**

Worksheet 1

Task 1

Countable	Uncountable	Both
mechanism population approach decision result	awareness confusion wastage unemployment misconduct leadership legislation onset	discipline development memory prospect refusal skill responsibility controversy ability communication efficiency

Task 2

- Oxfam is raising awareness of the work it is doing in the fight against the spread of coronavirus.
- A successful manager requires excellent communication skills.
- The populations of several Eastern European countries are predicted to drop by fifteen percent in the next thirty years.
- Many plant and animal species are threatened with extinction due to water wastage.
- New legislation regarding animal welfare is to be introduced in spring 2021.

Task 3

Bilingualism

It is claimed that forty-three per cent of the world's i) **population** is bilingual. In the past, the idea of a child learning to speak two languages simultaneously was often met with ii) **controversy**, as many believed it would result in initial iii) **confusion** for the child and possibly iv) **refusal** to speak one of the languages. However, several experts in the field strongly believe that being bilingual can have huge benefits on a child's cognitive v) **development**, including an excellent vi) **memory** and increased communication vii) **skills**. Needless to say, the viii) **ability** to speak more than one language can also lead to greater job ix) **prospects**, potential for a higher salary and most importantly, more protection against the x) **onset** of Alzheimer's.

Worksheet 2

Task 1

Rule	Example
Irregular plurals and uncountable nouns have no final 's'.	<i>Homelessness in England has increased by 250% in the last ten years.</i>
General statements use the plural.	<i>Both the advantages and disadvantages will be discussed in this essay.</i>
Two connected nouns should agree.	<i>Further research into driverless cars is needed.</i>
Nouns need to agree with pronouns and verbs.	<i>Mountain gorillas are one of the most endangered species in the world.</i>

Task 2

1. Resolving conflict within teams **is** challenging for managers.
2. The rate of extreme **poverty** is growing the most in Sub-Saharan Africa.
3. **Advertisements** today rely heavily on music and colour.
4. The **difficulty** with remote working is the dependence on a strong Internet connection.
5. Neither the **politicians** nor the experts have handled this crisis well.

Task 3

Noun Patterns	Examples
Singular + Plural	<i>Many types of leaders</i> <i>Nine hundred thousand species of insects</i>
Plural + Plural	<i>Economics is not just about finance</i> <i>Measles can be prevented via the MMR vaccine</i>
Plural + Uncountable	<i>A range of topics</i> <i>A number of variables</i>
Uncountable ending in 's' + singular verb	<i>Fields of research</i> <i>Patterns of behaviour</i>

Task 4

1. There are a number of **characteristics** that a good leader needs to possess.
2. Genetics **is** the study of similarities and differences of organisms and their inheritance.
3. It is believed that almost fifteen varieties of Spanish **language** are spoken in South America.
4. A minority of people **have** expressed uncertainty towards the new Covid-19 vaccines.
5. These days clothes can be made with several **kinds** of sustainable materials.

Task 5

Food waste

One the most worrying environmental issues affecting us all is the problem of food waste. It is claimed that over eighty per cent of food waste comes from i) **households**, which in turn goes to ii) **landfill**, causing the iii) **production** of several harmful gases. What is more, in order to produce the amount of food to feed our iv) **consumption** habits, a huge amount of land is required, resulting in severe v) **degradation** to many natural vi) **habitats**. Moreover, a large number of vii) **resources**, such as water, manufacturing, viii) **packaging** and labour are needed, which puts even greater pressure on numerous ix) **industries**. Although x) **supermarket chains** are somewhat to blame, by only selling the 'perfect' red tomato or the 'least wonky' carrot, food waste is ultimately a result of the consumerist society we all live in. Thus, it seems morally wrong to waste perfectly good produce when the number of people who rely on xi) **food banks** to feed their families is almost two million in the UK. Therefore, lowering our xii) **demand** and educating ourselves better regarding the environmental repercussions would be a huge step forward.

Worksheet 3

Suggested paragraph

Job sharing

The idea of job sharing is not new, but in the last ten years, it has begun to increase steadily in many European countries. The reason for this growth is largely attributed to the larger concept of flexible working. Job sharing entails one role shared between two or more people, allowing for employees to work part-time or reduced hours. The surge in demand for flexitime could be due to a staff member's age, family commitments or simply maintaining a healthy work-life balance, especially if someone has other responsibilities such as volunteering or charity work. From an employer's perspective, job sharing can be beneficial when a valued member of the team would like to work fewer hours but their knowledge and expertise cannot be easily replaced. A newer employee could then work alongside the more experienced staff member, who in turn, would pass on his or her set of skills. In addition, job share partners are required to provide coverage for each other's sick leave and holidays, which in turn, eases the pressure on the employer to find a replacement at short notice.

Countable

Uncountable

Both