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5 GRAMMAR uncountable and plural nouns

- a Circle the correct form. Tick (✓) if you think both are possible.
- 1 A good guidebook will give you *advice* / *advices* about what to see.
 - 2 You may have *some bad weather* / *a bad weather* if you go to London in March.
 - 3 When I was in Rome and Paris, *the accommodation* was / *the accommodations* were extremely expensive.
 - 4 It's best not to take *too much luggage* / *too many luggages* if you go on a city break.
 - 5 The old town centre is amazing, but *the outskirts* is / *the outskirts* are a bit depressing.
 - 6 I really liked the hotel. The rooms were beautiful, and *the staff* was / *the staff* were incredibly friendly
- b ▶ p.149 Grammar Bank 9B. Learn more about uncountable nouns and plural and collective nouns, and practise them.
- c Play **Just a minute** in small groups.

Just a minute

RULES

One person starts. He / she has to try to talk for a minute about the first subject below.

If he or she hesitates for more than five seconds, he / she loses his / her turn and the next student continues.

The person who is talking when one minute is up gets a point.

modern furniture

good advice you've been given

what's in the news at the moment

tourist accommodation in your country

the weather you like most

the most beautiful scenery you've seen

the traffic in your town / city

chocolate

the police in your country

clothes you love wearing

6 WRITING

- ▶ p.119 Writing Bank *A report*. Write a report for a website about good places for eating out or entertainment in your city.

uncountable and plural nouns

uncountable nouns

- 1 The **weather** is fantastic there, and there's very little **traffic** so you can walk everywhere. The **scenery** is beautiful here, but it's spoiled by all the **rubbish** people leave. (5 19))
- 2 Could you give me **some advice** about where to stay? One useful **piece of advice** is to get a travel card.
- 3 The new opera house is made mainly of **glass**. Can I have a **glass** of tap water please?
- 1 The following nouns are always uncountable: *behaviour, traffic, weather, accommodation, health, progress, scenery, rubbish, work, politics* (and other words ending in *-ics*, e.g. *athletics, economics*).
- They always need a singular verb, they don't have plurals, and they can't be used with *a / an*.
- 2 These nouns are also uncountable: *furniture, information, advice, homework, research, news, luck, bread, toast, luggage, equipment*. Use a *piece of* to talk about an individual item.

- 3 Some nouns can be either countable or uncountable, but the meaning changes, e.g. *glass* = the material used to make windows, *a glass* = the thing you drink out of. Other examples: *iron, business, paper, light, time, space*.

plural and collective nouns

- 1 One of the best museums is on **the outskirts** of the city. (5 20))
My **clothes** are filthy. I'll put on **some clean trousers** / I'll put on **a pair of clean trousers**.
- 2 The hotel **staff** are very efficient.
The **cabin crew** are coming round with the drinks trolley in just a few minutes.
- 1 *Arms* (= guns, etc.), *belongings, clothes, manners, outskirts, scissors, trousers / shorts* are plural nouns with no singular. They need a plural verb and they can't be used with *a / an*.
- If they consist of two parts, e.g. *scissors, trousers, shorts*, etc. they can be used with *a pair of* or *some*.
- 2 *Crew, police, staff*, etc. are collective nouns and refer to a group of people. You can use a singular or plural verb with these, except *police*, which needs a plural verb.

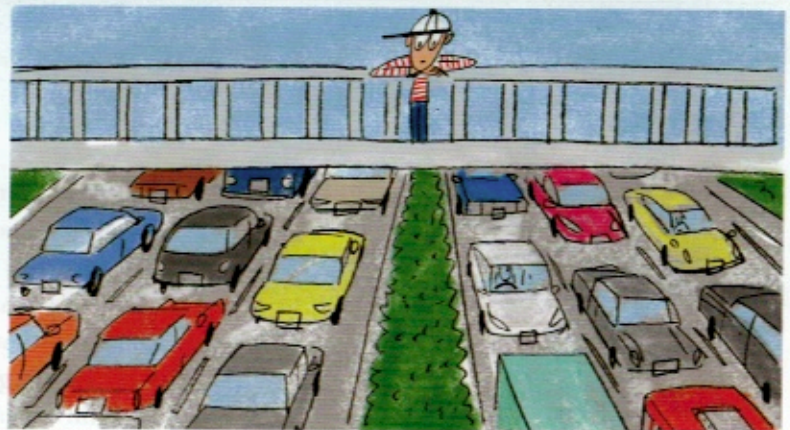
- a Right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct the mistakes in the **highlighted** phrases.

Our **accommodation isn't** satisfactory. ✓

The news are good. X *The news is*

- 1 We had **a beautiful weather** when we were on holiday.
- 2 They've got **some lovely furnitures** in their house.
- 3 My brother gave me **a useful piece of advice**.
- 4 Do you have **a scissors**? I need to wrap this present.
- 5 I need to buy **a new trousers** for my interview tomorrow.
- 6 **The staff is** very unhappy about the new dress code.
- 7 **Your glasses are** really dirty. Can you see anything?
- 8 **The homeworks were** very difficult last night.
- 9 **There isn't any more space** in my suitcase. Can I put this jacket in yours?
- 10 **The police is sure** that they know who was responsible for the vandalism.

- b Circle the correct form. Tick (✓) if both are correct.



The traffic **is** / **are** awful during the rush hour.

- 1 Athletics **is** / **are** my favourite sport.
- 2 I bought **a pair of** / **some** new jeans.
- 3 Harvey's clothes **look** / **looks** really expensive.
- 4 The flight crew **work** / **works** hard to make passengers comfortable.
- 5 I found out **some** / **a piece of** useful information at the meeting.
- 6 Could I have **a paper** / **a piece of paper** to write down the new words?
- 7 I think I'll have **a** / **some** time after lunch to help you with that report.
- 8 I've got **a** / **some** good news for you about your job application.
- 9 We've made a lot of **progress** / **progresses** this term.
- 10 Hello, Reception? Do you have **an** / **some** iron I could use?

◀ p.91

2 VOCABULARY

 prefixes and suffixes

- a Complete the sentences with the prefixes from the box.

anti auto bi mega mis mono
multi over post sub under

- 1 The doctor prescribed antibiotics for my brother's chest infection.
- 2 There was a food shortage in many countries during the _____-war period, between 1946 and 1960.
- 3 Some of the residents of megacities live in _____ standard housing.
- 4 My English teacher recommends us to use a _____lingual dictionary, one that is only in English.
- 5 My colleagues are always complaining that they are _____worked and _____paid.
- 6 The leader of the protest used a _____phone to make himself heard.
- 7 You couldn't miss Sandra – she was the one in the _____coloured coat.
- 8 The town has just celebrated its _____centenary.
- 9 Hundreds of fans were waiting for the singer hoping to get an _____graph.
- 10 It's a popular _____conception that cold weather can make you ill. This is simply not true.

- b Complete the sentences with nouns formed from the words in brackets.

- 1 I borrowed the money with the intention of giving it back to you. (intend)
- 2 His greatest _____ is his inability to express his feelings. (weak)
- 3 There is a general _____ that house prices will rise before the end of the year. (believe)
- 4 You need to have _____ and stamina to become a professional athlete. (strong)
- 5 He wasn't chosen for the basketball team because of his _____. (high)
- 6 Teachers are trying to fight _____ in schools throughout the country. (race)
- 7 The _____ of online shopping means that fewer people are shopping on the high street. (convenient)
- 8 Gandhi was a humanist who believed in the _____ of man. (brother)
- 9 There's been a great _____ in public transport recently. (improve)
- 10 I didn't have much _____ finding work in the city, so I moved back to the country. (succeed)

3 GRAMMAR

 uncountable and plural nouns

- a Circle the correct answer. Tick (✓) if both are possible.



- 1 Can I have a piece of bread / some bread, please? ✓
 - 2 My grandmother suffers from bad health / a bad health.
 - 3 I've bought a new piece of furniture / some new furniture for my living room.
 - 4 Please can you give me a piece of advice / some advice?
 - 5 I'm looking for a cheap accommodation / some cheap accommodation.
 - 6 Jackie's upset because she's had a bad news / some bad news.
 - 7 Be careful with that vase – it's made of glass / a glass.
 - 8 My girlfriend gave me a pair of pyjamas / some pyjamas for my birthday.
 - 9 The teacher gave the boy extra marks for a good behaviour / good behaviour.
 - 10 Can you lend me a paper / some paper? I've left my notebook at home.
- b Complete the sentences with *is* or *are*. Sometimes both are possible.
- 1 My clothes are really wet. I got caught in a thunderstorm.
 - 2 The traffic _____ terrible in the rush hour in the city centre.
 - 3 The hotel staff _____ always really polite and helpful.
 - 4 The new research into sleep patterns _____ fascinating.
 - 5 The outskirts of the town _____ quite run down and a bit depressing.
 - 6 The good news _____ that we're getting married in the spring!
 - 7 The flight crew on this plane _____ very young.
 - 8 Politics _____ really fascinating – particularly for politicians!
 - 9 Do you think my belongings _____ safe in the hotel room?
 - 10 Police _____ investigating the murder of an elderly woman in her home.