1 Are there any special times I should use the?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1a In the USA this situation is totally different.
  b In USA this situation is totally different.

2a The table shows number of people working in Britain in 1976.
  b The table shows the number of people working in Britain in 1976.

We use the
• with countries or places where the name refers to a group of islands or states: the United States, the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates, the UK
• with superlatives: the best, the longest, the highest
• with cardinal numbers: the first, the second, the third
• when there is only one in the world: the environment, the internet, the sun
• to refer to the only one in this particular area: the government, the police, the river
• in the phrase: the same as

We don't use the
• with a single country or place: America, England, China
• to talk about something in general. We use the plural if we are talking about something in general; we use the to identify one specific example. Compare:
  People with reading difficulties often have problems with numbers.
The number eight is considered lucky in some countries.

2 Correct the mistake below.

Your hairstyle is not the same as mine.

3 Complete the sentences below using the words in brackets. Decide whether or not to use the, or whether to use the plural.

1 The main advantage of information from all over the world. (internet)

2 My father has fished in all over Australia. (river)

3 Life in is very different from life in my country. (America)

4 According to the graph, of people moving into the city each year has more than doubled. (number)

5 The total figure for 1976 was as the total figure for 1982. (same)

6 Obesity is much more common in than in my country. (USA)

7 The graph shows that increase occurred in 1999. (greatest)

8 travels around at a speed of 3,700 kilometres per hour. (moon, earth)
2 Singular or plural?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1a There are several problem with this idea.
   b There are several problems with this idea.

2a Many charity organisations provide a great deal of help.
   b Many charity organisation provides a great deal of help.

If you use a plural noun, you must use a plural verb. The verb must ‘agree’ with the noun:

- In my country there are very few cars that use leaded petrol. (plural verb + plural noun)
- I like studying during the day but my friend prefers studying at night. (singular noun + singular verb)

We use a plural noun with:

- plural verbs: are, were, have, do, play, etc.: There are a lot of books on the table.
- numbers greater than one: 30 cars, 100 students
- many: It is annoying that so many buses drive past because they are full.
- the number of: The number of buses on our roads has increased each year.

Note that we use a plural noun but a singular verb after the number of.

We use a singular noun with:

- singular verbs: is, was, has, does, plays, etc.: There is only one bedroom in the flat.
- a/an or one: a car, one student

Note that some nouns can look plural but are singular (news, mathematics) and some nouns have a different form in the plural (children, men, women, people).

2 Correct the mistake below.

The number of woman studying science increased dramatically last year.

The number of ........................................ dramatically last year.

3 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

1 The childs / children are playing in the street.
2 The number of men / man studying science has decreased.
3 There are a lot of persons / people in my class.
4 I enjoyed studying mathematics a lot; I found it / them very interesting.
5 The news were / was very upsetting.
6 How many classes / class do you have today?
7 A person / people I really admire is my uncle.
8 My father watch / watches a lot of sport on TV.
3 Which nouns don’t have a plural form?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

1a I don’t have many time to complete my assignment.
   b I don’t have much time to complete my assignment.

2a When I did a search on my computer, I could only find a few informations about the topic.
   b When I did a search on my computer, I could only find a little information about the topic.

Some nouns in English are ‘uncountable’. This means they do not have a plural form.

Some common uncountable nouns are: advice, advertising, food, furniture, garbage, information, knowledge, money, shopping, time, traffic, travel.

With uncountable nouns, you must use:

• the singular form: food, information, money

• a little / amount of / much / some: How much money do you have?
  The amount of traffic on the roads is increasing each year.

• a singular verb: There was already a little furniture in the flat.

If a noun is uncountable, you cannot use:

• a plural form: advices, furnitures, garbages, informations, knowledges.

• an: an advice, a garbage, a knowledge.

• a few / many / number of: a few shopping, many traffic, the number of knowledge.

• a number: three travels, four furniture.

• a plural verb: There were a little furniture in the flat.

If you want to add a number to an uncountable noun, you can use a piece of / some / a few pieces of: a piece of advice, three pieces of furniture, a few pieces of garbage.

2 Correct the mistake below.

The number of garbages we produce is increasing.

The ............................................ we produce is increasing.

3 Correct the mistakes in these sentences. There may be more than one mistake in each sentence.

1 My tutor was very helpful; he gave me one very good advice about how to study.
2 I was surprised by the number of times it took us to reach the castle.
3 You need a great deal of knowledges to become a doctor.
4 The informations we were given by the tour guide were not very helpful.
5 When we visited the park, we were upset to see so many garbages left there.
6 We arrived late because there were so many traffic on the road.
7 I can’t wait to visit the market and do a few shopping.
8 The furnitures in the hotel room were quite old but they were very comfortable.
Test 1

1 Underline the correct word or phrase in the following sentences.

1 The garbage is / are collected every Tuesday.
2 Advertising in the school newsletter is / are a waste of time.
3 A lot of food in restaurants is / are thrown away every day.
4 Many idea / ideas for new products never reach the manufacturing stage.
5 My sister gave me lots of advice / advices that was / were very useful.
6 Over three hundred student / students signed the petition for a new study area.
7 There are a lot of similarity / similarities between your country and mine.
8 There is / are more women on my course than men.

2 Fill in the gaps using one of the words from the box. Decide whether you need to add the.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of people accessing the internet per 100,000 people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>79.306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>76.027</td>
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<tr>
<td>#3</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>75.539</td>
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<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>75.527</td>
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<tr>
<td>#5</td>
<td>Faroe Islands</td>
<td>68.140</td>
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<tr>
<td>#6</td>
<td>Greenland</td>
<td>67.406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Korea, South</td>
<td>64.925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#8</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>64.709</td>
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<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>62.914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#10</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>62.209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1)........................... shows the top ten countries in terms of internet usage.
(2)........................... country is New Zealand, which has (3)........................... number of internet users. (4)........................... is at the bottom of (5)........................... . Surprisingly, (6)........................... does not feature in the top ten at all. However, a little-known group of islands called (7)........................... is ranked fifth in (8)........................... . (9)........................... and (10)........................... are ranked third and fourth. Both have almost (11)........................... number of users, with over 75,500 people per 100,000 accessing (12)........................... .
3 Look at the following advertisement and fill in the gap in each question using one of the phrases in the box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How many</th>
<th>How much</th>
<th>Is</th>
<th>Are</th>
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4 Fill in the blanks using a word from the box. Make any changes necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>advice</th>
<th>bird</th>
<th>child</th>
<th>company</th>
<th>house</th>
<th>person</th>
<th>plastic</th>
<th>transport</th>
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5 Correct the 14 mistakes in the text below.

The globalisation has had an enormous impact on many part of the world. Nowadays, even in some of most remote parts of world, we can connect to internet and conduct business. However, they is advantage and disadvantage to this. One disadvantages, for example, is that the local culture and language can be affected. It can also mean that local businesses has to reduce their prices to compete with bigger overseas companies. However, there are advantages; for example, globalisation can bring more business to a small area, which is good for the local economy. It may also help to stop young person moving away from more remote area. If a young person have the chance to run a business and be successful no matter where he or she lives, then perhaps more people will choose to stay in these smaller communities. It also means that news from around the world are available to everyone, and this can also reduce the feeling of isolation.
4 When do I use the present simple tense?

1 Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

1a Nowadays, our bodies becoming ‘old’ much later than 100 years ago.
1b Nowadays, our bodies become ‘old’ much later than 100 years ago.

2a Children lost their freedom if they have too many responsibilities.
2b Children lose their freedom if they have too many responsibilities.

We use the present simple tense:
• to make general statements about our world: The earth moves around the sun.
• to show a pattern or general truth: People work in order to meet their basic needs.
• with adverbs of frequency: always, usually, often, sometimes, never: People who are too lazy to walk often use their cars instead.
• with expressions such as: nowadays, these days, today (with a general meaning): Many students today do their research via computer rather than through books.
• for verbs showing opinions or feelings, e.g. believe, think, hope: I think that we should all do as much as we can to improve our environment.

We form the present simple tense with the base form of the verb. We add s or es to form the 3rd person singular:

I play
you play
he/she/it plays
we play
you play
they play

I watch
you watch
he/she/it watches
we watch
you watch
they watch

My brother watch TV
for 8 hours every day.

2 Correct the mistake below.

My brother ................................. .

3 Correct the mistakes in the sentences below.

1 People should act according to what they are believing.
2 In general, I think our government spent too much money on space travel.
3 Nowadays, many people in my country have sent their children to single-sex schools.
4 These days, more and more people travelling to very distant places for their holidays.
5 I am hoping it is not too late to save the environment.
6 The female hen laying on average 5 or 6 eggs per week.
7 Younger drivers is more likely to be involved in a car accident.
8 Most doctors are agreeing that the only way to lose weight is by doing more exercise.