

# 1 Are there any special times I should use *the*?

## 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- In the USA this situation is totally different.*
  - In USA this situation is totally different.*
- The table shows number of people working in Britain in 1976.*
  - 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 ordinal 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.

The hotel did not look same as the photo on your website.

The hotel .....

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

- The main advantage of ..... is that it gives us access to information from all over the world. (*internet*)
- My father has fished in ..... all over Canada. (*river*)
- Life in ..... is very different from life in my country. (*Australia*)
- According to the graph, ..... of people moving into the city each year has more than doubled. (*number*)
- The total figure for 1976 was ..... as the total figure for 1982. (*same*)
- Obesity is much more common in ..... than in my country. (*USA*)
- The graph shows that ..... increase occurred in 1999. (*greatest*)
- The astronauts on ..... had a wonderful view of .....  
(*moon, earth*)

## 2 Singular or plural?

### 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

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

In 2015, the number of woman studying science increased dramatically.

In 2015, .....

### 3 Underline the correct word in each sentence.

- 1 In summer, *childs / children* often play together in the park until quite late.
- 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 yoga *classes / class* do you have each day?
- 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.

- 1 a I don't have many time to complete my assignment.  
 b I don't have much time to complete my assignment.
- 2 a 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*
- *a/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.

Every year, the number of garbages we produce increases.

Every year, .....

### 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 couldn'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

## 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*.**

Percentage of the population using the internet in 2000, 2005, and 2015			
Place	2000	2005	2015
New Zealand	47%	62%	88%
Sweden	45%	84%	90%
USA	43%	68%	75%
Iceland	41%	87%	98%
Malta	41%	63%	75%
Faroe Islands	32%	68%	94%

**2000**   **Faroe Islands**   **highest**   **Iceland**   **internet**   **lowest**  
**most**   **Malta**   **places**   **population**   **same**   **table**   **ten**   **USA**

(1)..... shows what percentage of the population of 6 different countries used (2)..... in 2000, 2005, and 2015. Overall, usage in each place increased significantly each year with the greatest changes occurring between (3)..... and 2005.

In 2000, New Zealand had (4)..... internet users. However, by 2005, it had fallen to (5)..... position. Similar changes occurred in other (6)..... . For example, although (7)..... and Malta had exactly (8)..... percentage in 2000, the figures varied in the years following this. In fact, Iceland had (9)..... percentage of users in 2015, at almost 100% of (10)..... , and (11)..... had one of the lowest at only 75%. Similarly, (12)..... and the Faroe Islands both had relatively small percentages in 2000 and 2005, but this changed considerably in (13)..... years between 2005 and 2015, when the percentage of people using the internet in (14)..... jumped by 26%, while in the USA the figure rose by only 7%.

**3 Look at the following advertisement and fill in the gap in each question using one of the phrases in the box.**

**How many    How much    Is    Are    Is there    Are there**

**Room for rent** in shared house close to bus. Must help to pay bills (electricity, etc.). For more details phone: 376 8900

- 1 ..... food included in the rent?
- 2 ..... a lot of traffic in the area?
- 3 ..... any other transport nearby?
- 4 ..... does the electricity usually cost?
- 5 ..... any pets in the house?
- 6 ..... money will I need to pay each week?
- 7 ..... people are living in the house?
- 8 ..... a lot of furniture in the room?

**4 Fill in the blanks using a word from the box. You may need to change the words.**

**advice    bird    child    company    house    person    plastic    transport**

- 1 The travel agency was hopeless; they didn't even give us one useful .....
- 2 The number of new ..... being built in our area has doubled.
- 3 Most large ..... operate on a global scale nowadays.
- 4 Some ..... feel that the internet has made shopping easier.
- 5 Nowadays, school-age ..... do not exercise as much as in the past.
- 6 The blades of the fan are made of .....
- 7 There are several kinds of ..... in my city but my favourite is the ferry.
- 8 In 2018, there was an increase in the number of small ..... killed by cats.

**5 Correct the 14 mistakes in the text below.**

The globalisation has had an enormous impact almost everywhere. Nowadays, even in some of the most remote parts of the world, anyone can connect to internet and run a business. However, there are both advantage and disadvantage to this.

One disadvantages of globalisation is that culture and language can be affected because people are forced to use same language. In addition, local business have to reduce their prices to compete with bigger overseas company. However, there are also several advantages. For example, it can bring more business to a small towns, which is good for local economy. This also means that a children living in a remote area has the chance to be successful later in life without leaving their hometown. As a result, perhaps more person will choose to stay in small towns rather than move to a bigger city for work. Thus, overall, there seem to be more benefit for local peoples.

## 4 When do I use the present simple tense?

### 1 Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Nowadays, our bodies becoming 'old' much later than 100 years ago.  
b Nowadays, our bodies become 'old' much later than 100 years ago.
- 2 a Children lost their freedom if they have too many responsibilities.  
b 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 third person singular:

<i>I play</i>	<i>I watch</i>
<i>you play</i>	<i>you watch</i>
<i>he/she/it plays</i>	<i>he/she/it watches</i>
<i>we play</i>	<i>we watch</i>
<i>you play</i>	<i>you watch</i>
<i>they play</i>	<i>they watch</i>

### 2 Correct the mistake below.

At the weekend, my younger brother play video games 8 hours a day.

At .....

### 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 My father often working more than 50 hours 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.

## 5 How do I write large numbers?

### 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a The government spent ten millions dollars on education last year.  
 b The government spent ten million dollars on education last year.
- 2 a There were thousands of people at the football match.  
 b There were a thousand of people at the football match.

When we talk about a specific large number, we do not add *s* to the number:

200,000 = *two hundred thousand* (not ~~*two hundred thousands*~~)

10,000,000 = *ten million* (not ~~*ten millions*~~)

The noun that follows is always plural:

*There must have been at least three thousand **students** at the protest.*

We use the plural form of large numbers + *of* to give an approximate idea of how many:

*There must have been **thousands of** students at the protest.*

We can use *a* instead of *one*. *One* is more formal:

*If I won **a million** dollars, I would probably take a year off and travel around the world.*

*The president promised to increase the health budget by **one million** dollars.*

☆ We usually use numerals for numbers that cannot be written in one or two words:

*More than **two million** people attended last year.* but: *2,001,967 people attended last year.*

You should write fractions in words: *half a (million); a/one third of a (million); three quarters of a (million); one and a quarter (million); one and three quarter (million):*

*According to the chart, in 2014 over **half a million** Ukrainians went to the cinema.*

### 2 Correct the mistake below.

There were a thousands of people waiting to see the celebrity arrive.

There .....

### 3 Underline the correct number in the sentences below.

- 1 The local museum has objects that are more than *two thousands* / *two thousand* years old.
- 2 The chart shows that *three hundreds* / *three hundred* whales were seen here in 2019.
- 3 *Three and a half billion* / *Three and a half of a billion* people watched the ceremony on TV.
- 4 I pay *six hundred dollars* / *six hundred dollar* in rent each month.
- 5 Real estate in my city is very expensive; a small house can cost *three quarter of a million* / *three quarters of a million* dollars.
- 6 *A million of* / *Millions of* dollars are spent on space exploration each year.
- 7 By 2015, more than *six hundred* / *six hundreds* of children were enrolled in the school.
- 8 The company has sold *one and a half billions* / *one and a half billion* computers so far.

## 6 There is / there are

### 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a *It is a lovely park near my house.*  
b *There is a lovely park near my house.*
- 2 a *There have very good restaurants and shops on board the ship.*  
b *There are very good restaurants and shops on board the ship.*

We use *there* to say that something exists. We use *there is* with a singular subject and *there are* with a plural subject:

***There is an oak tree in my garden.*** (not ~~*It is an oak tree*~~ or ~~*There have an oak tree*~~)

***There are some great movies on at the cinema.*** (not ~~*They are some great movies*~~)

We use *there is* and *there are* to give new information. We use *it is* or *they are* to talk about something that has already been referred to. Compare:

***There is a present for you on the table.*** (the first time the present has been mentioned)

Mary: *What is **that** you're carrying?*

John: ***It's a present for my sister.*** (*it* = what John is carrying)

We do not use the auxiliary verb *do* to form questions and negatives with *there is* and *there are*: ***Are there any clean glasses in the cupboard? There isn't a map in the car.***

☆ *There cannot be left out: **There is a pan of soup and there are some bowls in the kitchen.***  
(not ~~*There is a pan of soup and are some bowls in the kitchen.*~~)

### 2 Correct the mistake below.

Before they built the supermarket, there had a lot more small shops in my town.

Before .....

### 3 Correct the mistakes in the sentences below.

- In developed countries there is many possible solutions to this problem.
- There now a house where the tree used to be.
- There is no electricity and are no factories in this area.
- Fortunately, they are still a lot of good people in the world.
- It is a very small village so there don't have any large supermarkets.
- In the first chart, it is a large gap between the cost of living and salaries earned.
- In 2018 there was three million people working in this industry.
- How many pages there are in the document?

# TEST

## Test 2

**1 Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

*Examiner:* Can you describe a typical morning at your house?  
*Candidate:* Well, my father always (1)..... (*get up*) first because he (2)..... (*start*) work at 7 o'clock. The traffic (3)..... (*be*) very bad in my city so he (4)..... (*have*) to leave at 6 o'clock. Before he (5)..... (*leave*), he (6)..... (*wake*) my brother and me up. I (7)..... (*get up*) straight away but my brother (8)..... (*prefer*) to sleep as long as he can, and he nearly always (9)..... (*catch*) the last bus to school. My mother (10)..... (*make*) our breakfast while I (11)..... (*get dressed*), then I (12)..... (*leave*) for school at about 7:30.

**2 Match each amount (1-5) with its correct written equivalent (a-i). You'll need to read the words carefully.**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1 \$305,000   | a thirty-five dollars                               |
|               | b three and a half million dollars                  |
| 2 \$35        | c three hundreds and five dollar                    |
|               | d thirty five thousands dollars                     |
| 3 \$35,000    | e three millions and five hundred thousands dollars |
|               | f thirty-five dollars                               |
| 4 \$3,500,000 | g three hundred and five thousand dollars           |
|               | h thirty-five thousand dollars                      |
| 5 \$305       | i three hundred and five dollars                    |

**3 Find 14 mistakes in the text below and correct them.**

It is several reasons why farmers needed our help. Firstly, agriculture are very important. In my country, farmers growing a wide variety of crops every year, and this helped to reduce the amount of food we need to import from other countries. However, life is sometimes difficult for them because their day begun very early and they often works until late at night. The weather also is making their working conditions very difficult at times. In addition, many farmers are often feeling that they do not receive a fair price for their produce. This is because too many big supermarkets taking a large amount of the profits that should go to farmers. For these reasons, few young people nowadays wants to become farmers in the future. I am believing we are need to encourage more people to work in agriculture, and I am hoping that the government will take steps to protect this vital industry.

**4 Fill in the blanks in the text below using the information in the table. Three of your answers should contain a fraction.**

The top ten countries using tractors in agriculture in 2006		
	Country	Number of tractors
1	United States	4,800,000
2	Japan	2,028,000
3	Italy	1,750,000
4	India	1,525,000
5	Poland	1,306,700
6	France	1,264,000
7	Germany	1,030,800
8	Turkey	905,000
9	Spain	885,000
10	China	755,073

According to the table, in 2006, the United States had the greatest number of tractors with almost (1)..... *five million*..... being used in agriculture at that time. Japan had less than half this amount, with just over (2)....., and Italy was ranked third with a total of (3)..... tractors. India had just over (4)....., while Poland, France and Germany each have over (5)..... . Of the bottom three countries on this list, Turkey had a little under (6)....., Spain had fewer than (7)..... and China had just over (8)..... tractors in 2006.

**5 Fill in the gaps in the following sentences with either *it*, *they* or *there*.**

- ..... are several reasons why I would prefer to meet with you in person.
- I have printed out the letters. .... are on the desk, ready for you to sign.
- If you don't want to cook, ..... is an excellent restaurant at the end of the street.
- ..... have a wonderful swimming pool in this hotel.
- We had a lovely holiday in Florence. .... really is a beautiful city.
- ..... were several robberies in the area last week.
- My parents don't speak the language well; ..... moved here about 6 months ago.
- Is ..... going to be a staff meeting about the new project?