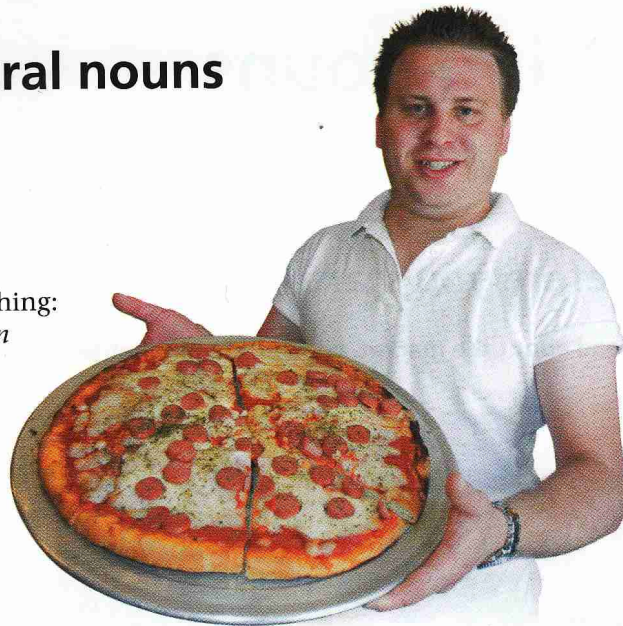


# 1 Singular and plural nouns



## 1 Nouns

A noun is a person, a place or a thing:  
*a waiter a town a pizza a melon*  
*an apple an egg a steak*

In writing, names of people, places, days, months, etc. begin with a capital letter:

*John Smith Mr Brown*  
*Vancouver Oxford Street*  
*Saturday September May Day*

## 2 Singular and plural nouns

Most nouns can be singular (one) or plural (more than one):

SINGULAR *a pizza a melon a banana an apple an egg*  
 PLURAL *two pizzas three melons four bananas five apples some eggs*

We usually add -s to a singular noun to make it plural, but some nouns are different:

NOUNS THAT END IN		PLURAL
<i>s, ss, sh, ch, and x</i> (and <i>potato, tomato</i> )	add -es	<i>buses, classes, dishes, watches, boxes, potatoes</i>
consonant ( <i>b, c, d, etc.</i> ) + <i>y</i> ( <i>ay, ey, oy</i> )	change <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add -es (add -s)	<i>families, babies, countries</i> <i>days, valleys, toys</i>
<i>f or fe</i>	change <i>f</i> to <i>v</i> and add -es	<i>loaves, wives, scarves</i>

The plural form of a few nouns is different. We call these irregular nouns:

SINGULAR *man woman child person foot tooth penny fish sheep*  
 PLURAL *men women children people feet teeth pence fish sheep*

Spelling rules ► page 316

Pronunciation ► 1.02

## 3 Noun + verb

We use different verb forms with singular and plural nouns:

singular noun + singular verb  
 Our **teacher** **is** British.  
 The **bus** **leaves** at 8.30.

plural noun + plural verb  
 Those **students** **are** Japanese.  
 The **buses** **leave** from the town centre.

Some nouns are always plural:

*clothes*  
*jeans*  
*shorts*  
*scissors*  
*trousers*  
*(reading) glasses*

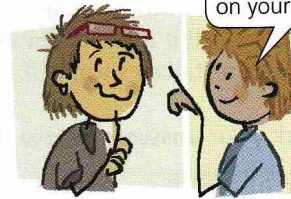
We can also say:

*a pair of jeans a pair of shorts a pair of scissors*

These trousers are long.



Your glasses are on your head.



## Practice

### 1 Write the plural form of the nouns.

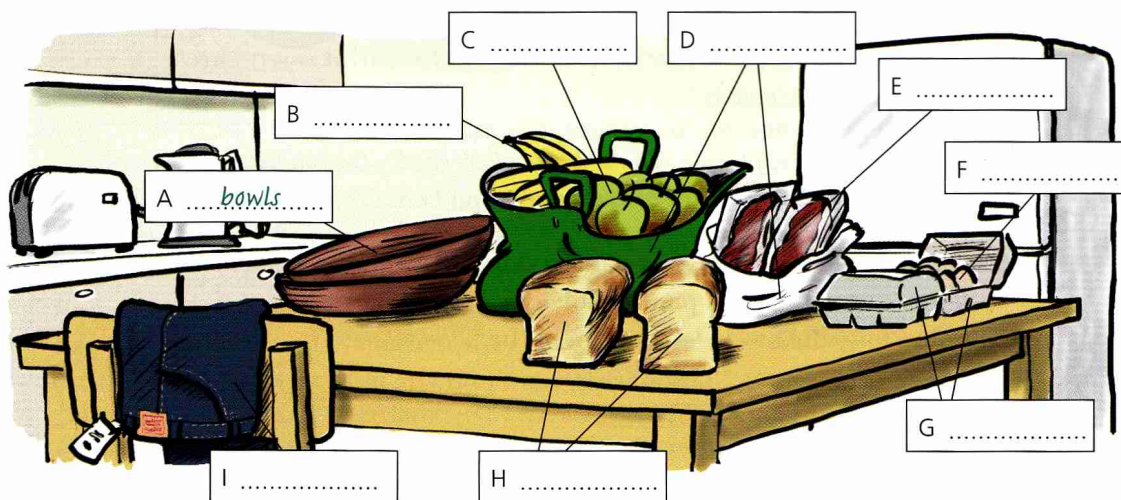
+ -s	+ -es	+ -ies	+ -ves	irregular
		babies		

baby box car child  
 class country day  
 exercise family foot  
 loaf man scarf  
 watch wife

### 2 Match the two parts of the sentences. 2.02 Listen and check.

- |   |                        |   |                      |
|---|------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 0 | 1 My brothers          | → | A walks to work.     |
|   | 2 My brother           | → | B walk to work.      |
| 1 | 1 Our English teacher  |   | A come from London.  |
|   | 2 Our English teachers |   | B comes from London. |
| 2 | 1 The children         |   | A is sick in bed.    |
|   | 2 Jan's child          |   | B are sick in bed.   |
| 3 | 1 My feet              |   | A are hurting.       |
|   | 2 My foot              |   | B is hurting.        |
| 4 | 1 Your reading glasses |   | A is on the table.   |
|   | 2 Your glass of water  |   | B are on the table.  |

### 3 Write the plural form of the nouns in the picture.



### 4 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the note with nouns from Exercise 3 or a form of the verb *be*.

#### 2.03 Listen and check.

Sorry, James – I'm going to see Mum because she's not well.  
 Can you put the shopping away? Thanks.  
 The steaks (0) .....are..... for dinner tonight, so can you put them in the fridge?  
 Can you take the eggs out of the (1) ..... and put them in the fridge, too?  
 There are some (2) ..... and (3) ..... in the green bag – put  
 them in the two (4) ..... on the table. There are two (5) ..... of  
 bread, too – can you put one of them in the fridge, please? The jeans  
 (6) ..... for Simon – can you put them in his room?  
 See you later – I hope the interview was OK. Maureen