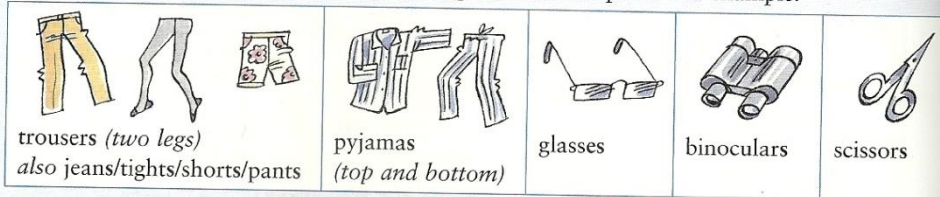


answer key / solutions grammar

Singular and plural

A

Sometimes we use a *plural* noun for one thing that has two parts. For example:



These words are plural, so they take a plural verb:

- My trousers are too long. (*not* my trousers is)

You can also use a pair of + these words:

- Those are nice jeans. *or* That's a nice pair of jeans. (*not* a nice jeans)
- I need some new glasses. *or* I need a new pair of glasses.

B

Some nouns end in -ics, but are not usually plural. For example:

- athletics economics electronics gymnastics maths (= mathematics) physics politics
- Gymnastics is my favourite sport. (*not* Gymnastics are)

News is not plural (see Unit 70B):

- What time is the news on television? (*not* are the news)

Some words ending in -s can be singular or plural. For example:

- | | | |
|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| means | a means of transport | many means of transport |
| series | a television series | two television series |
| species | a species of bird | 200 species of bird |

C

Some singular nouns are often used with a plural verb. For example:

- audience committee company family firm government staff team

These nouns are all groups of people. We often think of them as a number of people (= they), not as one thing (= it). So we often use a plural verb:

- The government (= they) want to increase taxes.
- The staff at the school (= they) are not happy with their new working conditions.

In the same way, we often use a plural verb after the name of a sports team or a company:

- Italy are playing Brazil next week (in a football match).
- Shell have increased the price of petrol.

A singular verb (The government wants ... / Shell has ... etc.) is also possible.

We use a plural verb with police:

- The police are investigating the murder, but haven't arrested anyone yet. (*not* The police is ... hasn't)

Note that we say a police officer / a policeman / a policewoman (*not* a police).

D

We do not often use the plural of person ('persons'). We normally use people (a plural word):

- He's a nice person. *but* They are nice people. (*not* nice persons)
- Many people don't have enough to eat. (*not* Many people doesn't)

E

We think of a sum of money, a period of time, a distance etc. as *one* thing. So we use a singular verb:

- Twenty thousand pounds (= it) was stolen in the robbery. (*not* were stolen)
- Three years (= it) is a long time to be without a job. (*not* Three years are)
- Six miles is a long way to walk every day.

- 79.1
- shorts
 - a means
 - means
 - some scissors *or* a pair of scissors
 - a series
 - series
 - species
- 79.2
- politics
 - economics
 - athletics
 - physics
 - gymnastics
 - electronics
- 79.3
- don't
 - want
 - was
 - aren't
 - wasn't
 - does *or* do
 - isn't
 - they are
 - are
 - Do
 - is
- 79.4
- wearing black jeans.
 - OK (Brazil is playing is also correct)
 - ... very nice people.
 - Ten pounds isn't
 - ... buy some new pyjamas. *or* ... buy a new pair of pyjamas.
 - OK (The committee hasn't is also correct)
 - There was a police officer / a policeman / a policewoman ...
 - What are the police ...
 - These scissors aren't ...

grammar exercises: some and any

5.1 Put in some or any.

- 1 We didn't buy any flowers.
- 2 This evening I'm going out with friends of mine.
- 3 A: Have you seen good films recently?
B: No, I haven't been to the cinema for ages.
- 4 I didn't have money, so I had to borrow
- 5 Can I have milk in my coffee, please?
- 6 I was too tired to do work.
- 7 You can cash these traveller's cheques at bank.
- 8 Can you give me information about places of interest in the town?
- 9 With the special tourist train ticket, you can travel on train you like.
- 10 If there are words you don't understand, use a dictionary.

5.2 Complete the sentences with some- or any- + -body/-thing/-where.

- 1 I was too surprised to say anything .
- 2 There's at the door. Can you go and see who it is?
- 3 Does mind if I open the window?
- 4 I wasn't feeling hungry, so I didn't eat
- 5 You must be hungry. Would you like to eat?
- 6 Quick, let's go! There's coming and I don't want to see us.
- 7 Sarah was upset about and refused to talk to
- 8 This machine is very easy to use. can learn to use it very quickly.
- 9 There was hardly on the beach. It was almost deserted.
- 10 'Do you live near Joe?' 'No, he lives in another part of town.'
- 11 'Where shall we go on holiday?' 'Let's go warm and sunny.'
- 12 They stay at home all the time. They never seem to go
- 13 I'm going out now. If phones while I'm out, can you tell them I'll be back at 11.30?
- 14 Why are you looking under the bed? Have you lost ?
- 15 The police have asked that who saw the accident should contact them.
- 16 'Can I ask you ?' 'Sure. What do you want to ask?'
- 17 Sue is very secretive. She never tells (2 words)

5.3 Complete the sentences. Use any (+ noun) or anybody/anything/anywhere.

- 1 Which bus do I have to catch?
- 2 Which day shall I come?
- 3 What do you want to eat?
- 4 Where shall I sit?
- 5 What sort of job are you looking for?
- 6 What time shall I phone tomorrow?
- 7 Who shall I invite to the party?
- 8 Which newspaper shall I buy?

- Any bus . They all go to the centre.
- I don't mind.
- I don't mind.
- Whatever you have.
- It's up to you. You can sit you like.
- It doesn't matter.
- I'll be in all day.
- I don't mind. you like.
- Whatever they have in the shop.