

Practice Test Topic 39: The noun

ACTIVITY 1

Complete the following sentences with the corresponding noun derived from the word in brackets.

1. The person a cheque is made out to is called the (pay)
2. I am full of for what she has achieved. (admire)
3. His parents gave him a lot of in his studies (encourage)
4. It is a to say he did it when you know he didn't. (false)
5. Please, put me two of sugar. (spoon)
6. The thing I hate about him is his (reliable)
7. We're going to the first of the two (perform)
8. To buy this car I made a monthly of 400€ for two years. (pay)
9. Fortunately, no longer exists in our society. (slave)

ACTIVITY 2

Give an adequate partitive or specific counter for the following uncountable nouns:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A of anger | A of laughter |
| A of ammunition | A of thunder |
| A of coal | A of wood |
| A of air | A of gunfire |
| A of meat | A of snow |
| A of furniture | A of chalk |
| A of news | A of dust |
| A of soap | A of luck |
| A of applause | A of toast |
| A of advice | A of wind |

ACTIVITY 3

What is the collective noun corresponding to the following?

1. A of wolves.
2. A of whales.
3. A of bees.

4. A of puppies.
5. A of teachers.
6. A of fish.
7. A of chickens.
8. A of birds.
9. A of goats.
10. A of singers.

ACTIVITY 4

Make a comment on each of these words with regard to the number category. Check the pronunciation and spelling of the plural form.

goose wolf darts deer memorandum criterion shorts
measles police sheep tooth thief mumps phenomenon
suspenders clergy clothes erratum scissors cod

ACTIVITY 5

Put the words in brackets into the sentences, in the same order, in their plural forms. Say the type of plural they exemplify.

1. A large number of fled in fear when a flock of suddenly landed within a few of them. (mouse, goose, foot)
2. Automobile have all too many of in of the special security and are considering of manufacturing their own. (company, story, delay, delivery, key, way)

3. Security believe the climbed along the of several houses before forcing open an upper window of the office building with and escaping with the contents of two (chief, thief, roof, knife, safe)
4. With the help of old, war-time Paris was recreated in the film for the film '..... of War', in which all the were played by unknown actors. (photo, studio, echo, hero)
5. were surprised when no fewer than six in full uniform, carrying, arrived in to attend a series of (passer-by, commander-in-chief, brief-case, police car, court-martial)
6. The and in the park are sometimes alarmed by low-flying (deer, sheep, aircraft)

ACTIVITY 6

Agreement: Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the present simple.

1. Our livestock (not to be) as numerous as they used to be.
2. People always (to tell) me that mumps (to be) something for a man to avoid, since the consequences can be serious.
3. Vermin (to cause) diseases.
4. The police (to be trying) to contact the dying woman's son.
5. The clergy (to dress) differently from laymen.
6. Darts (to be) a very popular game in British pubs.
7. Mathematics (to seem) difficult at first sight.
8. Some people (to think) that politics (to be) the art of the impossible.

ACTIVITY 7

Write either the masculine or the feminine of the following words and say how gender is expressed in each case:

Buck:

Host:

Monk:

Niece:

Witch:

Queen:

Widow :

Teacher:

Bachelor:

Landlady:

Prince:

Friend:

Activity 8

Comment on the difference between the following pairs.

1. A tea-cup / A cup of tea
2. Peter's and Jane's cars / Peter and Jane's cars
3. A cargo boat / The cargo of a boat
4. A pay-day / A day's pay
5. Day-time / A day's time
6. The rush hour / An hour's rush
7. Your brother's e-mail / An e-mail from your brother.

ANSWER KEY

ACTIVITY 1

1. The person a cheque is made out to is called the **PAYEE** (pay)
2. I am full of **ADMIRATION** for what she has achieved. (admire)
3. His parents gave him a lot of **ENCOURAGEMENT** in his studies (encourage)
4. It is a **FALSEHOOD**¹ to say he did it when you know he didn't. (false)
5. Please, put me two **SPOONFULS** of sugar. (spoon)
6. The thing I hate about him is his **UNRELIABILITY** (reliable)
7. We're going to the first of the two **PERFORMANCES** (perform)
8. To buy this car I made a monthly **PAYMENT** of 400€ for two years. (pay)
9. Fortunately, **SLAVERY** no longer exists in our society. (slave)

ACTIVITY 2

A fit of anger	A ripple / roar / peal of laughter
A round of ammunition	A rumble / clap / peal of thunder
A lump of coal	A splinter / chunk / bar of wood
A breath of air	A volley of gunfire
A slice of meat	A flake of snow
A piece / article of furniture	A stick of chalk
A piece / item of news	A speck of dust
A bar / cake of soap	A stroke of luck
A burst / round of applause	A slice of toast
A piece / word of advice	A gust of wind

ACTIVITY 3

1. A **pack** of wolves/hounds/dogs.
2. A **school** of whales.
3. A **swarm** of bees.
4. A **litter** of puppies.
5. A **team** of teachers.
6. A **school / shoal** of fish.
7. A **brood** of chickens.
8. A **flock** of birds.
9. A **herd** of goats/sheep/cows.
10. A **gang/band** of singers.

ACTIVITY 4

goose geese: irreg plural; mutation plural.

¹ Some of you may suggest *falseness*. It appears in wordreference, but not in the Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary, nor the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), or the Merriam-Webster. Therefore, we stick to *falsehood*.

memorandum memoranda / memorandums: irreg. plural; foreign plural / regular plural formation.

police: plural invariable (pluralia tantum); unmarked plural.

mumps: singular invariable (singularia tantum); nouns ending in –s.

clothes: plural invariable (pluralia tantum); aggregate nouns.

wolf wolves: irreg. plural; voicing.

criterion criteria: irreg.; irreg. plural; foreign plural.

sheep sheep: irreg plural; zero plural.

phenomenon phenomena: irreg. plural; foreign plural.

erratum errata: irreg. plural; foreign plural.

darts: singular invariable (singularia tantum); nouns ending in –s.

shorts: plural invariable (pluralia tantum); binary nouns.

tooth teeth: irreg. plural; mutation plural.

suspenders: plural invariable (pluralia tantum); binary nouns.

scissors: plural invariable (pluralia tantum); binary nouns.

deer: irreg plural; zero plural.

measles: singular invariable (singularia tantum); nouns ending in –s.

thief thieves: irreg. plural; voicing.

clergy: plural invariable (pluralia tantum); unmarked plural.

cod cod: irreg plural; zero plural.

ACTIVITY 5

1. A large number of **mice** fled in fear when a flock of **geese** suddenly landed within a few **feet** of them. (mouse, goose, foot) **MUTATION**
2. Automobile **companies** have all too many **stories** of **delays** in **deliveries** of the special security **keys** and are considering **ways** of manufacturing their own. (company, story, delay, delivery, key, way) **REGULAR PLURAL; TREATMENT OF 'Y'**
3. Security **chiefs** believe the **thieves** climbed along the **roofs** of several houses before forcing open an upper window of the office building with **knives** and escaping with the contents of two **safes** (chief, thief, roof, knife, safe) **REGULAR AND IRREGULAR PLURALS; TREATMENT OF 'F'**
4. With the help of old **photos** war-time Paris was recreated in the film **studios** for the film 'Echoes of War', in which all the **heroes** were played by unknown actors. (photo, studio, echo, hero) **REGULAR PLURAL; TREATMENT OF 'O'**
5. **Passers-by** were surprised when no fewer than six **commanders-in-chief** in full uniform, carrying **brief-cases** arrived in **police cars** to attend a series of **court-martials** (passer-by, commander-in-chief, brief-case, police car, court-martial) **COMPOUNDS**
6. The **deer** and **sheep** in the park are sometimes alarmed by low-flying **aircraft** (deer, sheep, aircraft) **ZERO PLURAL**

ACTIVITY 6

1. Our livestock **aren't** (not to be) as numerous as they used to be.
2. People always **tell** (to tell) me that mumps **is** (to be) something for a man to avoid, since the consequences can be serious.

3. Vermin **cause** (to cause) diseases.
4. The police **are trying** (to be trying) to contact the dying woman's son.
5. The clergy **dress** (to dress) differently from laymen.
6. Darts **is** (to be) a very popular game in British pubs.
7. Mathematics **seems** (to seem) difficult at first sight.
8. Some people **think** (to think) that politics **is** (to be) the art of the impossible.

ACTIVITY 7

Write either the masculine or the feminine of the following words and say how gender is expressed in each case:

Buck: doe (morphologically unmarked – different word)

Host: hostess (morphologically marked – gender suffix – inflection)

Monk: nun (morphologically unmarked – different word)

Niece: nephew (morphologically unmarked – different word)

Witch: wizard (morphologically unmarked – different word)

Queen: king (morphologically unmarked – different word)

Widow : widower (morphologically marked – gender suffix – inflection)

Teacher: teacher (personal dual gender)

Bachelor: spinster (morphologically unmarked – different word)

Landlady: landlord (morphologically unmarked – different word)

Prince: princess (morphologically marked – gender suffix – inflection)

Friend: friend (personal dual gender)

Activity 8

8. A tea-cup: the recipient made for tea.
A cup of tea: a tea-cup filled with tea.
9. Peter's and Jane's cars: Peter has a car, and Jane has a car. They are different.
Peter and Jane's cars: the cars I'm referring to belong both to Peter and Jane.
10. A cargo boat: a boat to carry goods (cargo)
The cargo of a boat: the goods that the boat carries.
11. A pay-day: a day in which you receive your salary.
A day's pay: how much you are paid for a day's work.
12. Day-time: not at night.
A day's time: the duration of one day.
13. The rush hour: the time where everybody leaves work and there is a lot of traffic.
An hour's rush: when you have rushed for one hour.
14. Your brother's e-mail: your brother's e-mail account OR an e-mail your brother has sent.
An e-mail from your brother: only one meaning – an e-mail that your brother has sent.