

# Review of Singular, Plural, and Noncount Nouns

These are similarities between *singular*, *plural*, and *noncount* nouns:

- All can follow *the*:

**the** letter                      **the** letters                      **the** mail

- All can follow a *possessive noun*:

**John's** letter                      **John's** letters                      **John's** mail

- All can follow a *possessive pronoun*:

**his** letter                      **his** letters                      **his** mail

These are similarities between *singular* and *noncount* nouns:

- Both can follow *this*:

**this** letter                      **this** mail

- Both are followed by *a singular verb*:

The letter **is** here.                      The mail **is** here.

These are similarities between *plural* and *noncount* nouns:

- They can follow *no*:

**no** letters                      **no** mail

- They can follow *not any*:

**not any** letters                      **not any** mail

- They can follow *some*:

**some** letters                      **some** mail

- They can follow *a lot of* or *lots of*:

**a lot of** letters                      **a lot of** mail  
**lots of** letters                      **lots of** mail

- They can be used with no word ( $\emptyset$ ) before them, to make a general statement:

$\emptyset$  Letters are stamped at the post office.  
 $\emptyset$  Mail is stamped at the post office.

These are characteristics of *singular* nouns only:

- They can follow *a* or *an*:

**a** banana                              **an** orange

These are characteristics of *plural* nouns only:

- They can follow *a few*:

**a few** bananas                      **a few** letters

- They can follow *not many* or *too many*:

**not many** bananas                      **too many** letters

These are characteristics of *noncount* nouns only:

- They can follow *a little*:

**a little** fruit                              **a little** mail

- They can follow *not much* or *too much*:

**not much** fruit                              **too much** mail

**exercise**
**5-1**

Circle the word that correctly fills in each blank.

1. There are \_\_\_\_\_ people in this room.

**a**                      **one**                      **too many**                      **too much**

2. There is \_\_\_\_\_ artist in our family.

**a**                      **some**                      **a lot of**                      **an**                      **these**

3. Do you have \_\_\_\_\_ books I gave you?

**a**                      **too many**                      **the**                      **too much**                      **an**

4. \_\_\_\_\_ airplanes are making a lot of noise.

**Too much**                       $\emptyset$                       **Those**                      **This**                      **A little**

5. I'm hoping you can give me \_\_\_\_\_ advice.

too many      an      one      three      a little

6. Our neighbors have \_\_\_\_\_ children.

too much      a lot of      a little      one      a

7. The doctor says that I eat \_\_\_\_\_ salt.

too many      a few      a      too much      this

8. There are \_\_\_\_\_ tickets available.

too much      this      that      no      a little

9. \_\_\_\_\_ apartment is near my house.

John's      A few      A lot of      Some      A

10. We would like \_\_\_\_\_ help.

some      a few      a      many      one

**exercise**

**5-2**

*Match the words in the left column with the nouns in the right column.*

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. one<br>four               | bottles<br>bottle               |
| 2. these<br>that             | information<br>letters          |
| 3. a few<br>a little         | pills<br>medicine               |
| 4. too much<br>one<br>a few  | sugar<br>spoonfuls<br>spoonful  |
| 5. too many<br>not much<br>a | furniture<br>chairs<br>chair    |
| 6. a<br>these<br>a little    | jewelry<br>necklace<br>earrings |

- |                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| 7. that          | vegetables |
| those            | fruit      |
| 8. There is a    | hardware   |
| There are        | nail       |
| There is         | screws     |
| 9. There is one  | water      |
| There are no     | lights     |
| There is no      | lamp       |
| 10. Here is your | letters    |
| There are no     | letter     |