Singular and plural nouns

Nouns can be classified as either singular or plural. The distinction between singular and plural is important because it affects the form of other words in a sentence, such as verbs, articles, and pronouns.

Singular Nouns: Singular nouns refer to one person, animal, thing, or concept. In the present simple tense, singular nouns are usually accompanied by singular verbs and determiners. Some key points to remember about singular nouns are:

- They are generally formed by adding an "-**s**" or "-**es**" to the base form of the noun (e.g., cat, cats; box, boxes).
- Singular nouns are typically preceded by articles such as "**a**" or "**an**" (e.g., a book, an apple).
- Singular nouns take singular pronouns such as "**he**," "**she**," or "**it**" (e.g., he is a student, she likes coffee).

Plural Nouns: Plural nouns refer to more than one person, animal, thing, or concept. In the present simple tense, plural nouns are usually accompanied by plural verbs and determiners. Here are some important aspects of plural nouns:

- Plural nouns are formed in various ways, such as by adding an "-**s**" or "-**es**," changing the spelling, or remaining the same as the singular form (e.g., dog, dogs; box, boxes; child, children).
- Plural nouns are often preceded by the article "**the**" (e.g., the books, the cars).
- Plural nouns take plural pronouns such as "**they**" (e.g., they are students, they like coffee).

Agreement between Nouns and Verbs:
In the present simple tense, verbs must agree with the subject noun in terms of number (singular or plural). This means that singular nouns take singular verbs, and plural nouns take plural verbs. For example:

- "She likes to read." **(singular subject + singular verb)**
- "They like to read." **(plural subject + plural verb)**

Indefinite Articles with Singular Nouns:
When using indefinite articles **(a/an)** with singular nouns, "**a**" is used before words that begin with a consonant sound, and "**an**" is used before words that begin with a vowel sound. For example:

"I have **a** book."
"She is **an** actress."



Singular and plural nouns exercise 1:

Choose the correct answer to complete the sentence.

1.The ____ is on the table.
a) book's
b) books
c) book
d) books'

2. I saw two ____ in the garden.
a) cats
b) cat
c) cat's
d) cats'

3. She has a ____ of water.
a) glasses
b) glass
c) glass's
d) glasses'

4. The ____ is playing in the park.
a) child
b) children's
c) child's
d) children

5.We bought three ____ for the party.
a) cake
b) cakes'
c) cake's
d) cakes

6.The ____ are singing beautifully.
a) bird
b) bird's
c) birds
d) birds'

7. He has many ____ on his desk.
a) pens
b) pen
c) pen's
d) pens'

8. The ____ is flying in the sky.
a) airplane
b) airplanes
c) airplane's
d) airplanes'

9. They are going to visit a ____.
a) relatives'
b) relatives
c) relative's
d) relative

10. The ____ are blooming in the garden.
a) flower
b) flowers
c) flower's
d) flowers

Singular and plural nouns exercise 2:

Complete the short story with the nouns below.

barks, dog (x 2), girl, balls, pets, moments, house, puppy

Once upon a time, there was a **(1)** _____ named Emily. She lived in a cozy **(2)** _____ in a peaceful neighborhood. Emily had a loyal **(3)** _____ named Max.

Emily and Max were inseparable. They would go on walks together and play fetch in the park. Max loved chasing **(4)** _____ and wagged his tail in delight.

One day, Emily and Max came across a lost **(5)** _____ in the woods. They decided to help it and named it Bella. Bella was a cute little **(6)**_____ with fluffy fur.

Now, Emily had two adorable **(7)** _____ to keep her company. Max and Bella loved to run and explore together. Emily's house was filled with joy and the sound of their happy **(8)** _____.

Emily, Max, and Bella had many memorable **(9)** _____ together, creating beautiful memories. Their friendship grew stronger with each passing **(10)**_____.



Singular and plural nouns: answer key

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Where two or more answers are given, any of them is correct.

Exercise 1

1. c) book
2. a) cats
3. b) glass
4. a) child
5. d) cakes
6. c) birds
7. a) pens
8. a) airplane
9. d) relative
10. b) flowers

Exercise 2

(1) girl
(2) house
(3) dog
(4) balls
(5) dog
(6) puppy
(7) pets
(8) barks
(9) moments
(10) day

Corrections to the printed pages

Explanation: singular nouns are the base form of the noun (cat, box). Adding -s or -es makes the plural.

Exercise 1, item 10: option d) should read flowers'.

Exercise 2: the box should also include day.