



Università degli Studi del Sannio  
Centro Linguistico di Ateneo

# LESSON 8

## Level A1/A2

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*Video realizzato*



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# The plural

We usually form the plural of nouns by adding –s.

**Ex.** *Book – books; File – files*, etc.

**Spelling notes:** baby – babies; boy – boys; bus – buses; glass – glasses; watch – watches; video – videos; box – boxes; leaf – leaves; roof – roofs

Some nouns have an irregular plural:

Child	<i>Children</i>	Person	<i>People</i>
Man	<i>Men</i>	Mouse	<i>Mice</i>
Woman	<i>Women</i>	Fish	<i>Fish</i>
Foot	<i>Feet</i>	Sheep	<i>Sheep</i>
Tooth	<i>Teeth</i>	Goose	<i>Geese</i>

# Countable/Uncountable nouns (1)

**Countable nouns** are nouns which can be counted. They have singular and plural forms.

**Ex.** *One pen, two pens, three pens*

Countable nouns can take a singular or plural verb.

**Ex.** *Her father lives in New York. His parents live in India.*

**Uncountable nouns** are nouns which cannot be counted. They have only singular forms.

**Ex.** *(some) cheese (NOT: one cheese, two cheese)*



# Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns include:

- **mass nouns:** *butter, cheese, flour, bread, water, coffee, tea, air, gold, wood, paper, iron, marble, etc.*

**Ex.** *There is some water on the table.*

- **school subjects:** *Maths, Physics, History, etc.*

**Ex.** *Physics is a very complex subject.*

- **games:** *football, billiards, darts, dominoes, etc.*

**Ex.** *Darts is my favourite game.*

- **diseases:** *measles, mumps, flu, pneumonia, etc.*

**Ex.** *Mumps is a childhood disease.*

- **some other nouns:** *news, advice, information, weather, furniture, hair, accommodation, money, homework, seaside, work, rubbish, jewellery, traffic.*

**Ex.** *Her hair is long and blonde.*

# Countable/Uncountable nouns (2)

Some nouns can be used as **countable** or **uncountable** with a difference in meaning.

1. I'd like **a glass** of wine, please.

2. She found **a hair** on his shirt.

3. Your **paper** is on the desk.

4. We've got to buy **an iron**.

5. My **room** has two windows.

6. Can I have **a coffee**, please?

1. **Glass** is easily broken.

2. She cut her **hair** short.

3. I want **some paper**, please.

4. The gate is made of **iron**.

5. Can you make **some room** for me?

6. We need to buy **some coffee**.

# Some – Any – No

- We use **some** and **any** with **uncountable** nouns (juice, water, etc) and with **plural countable** nouns (glasses, books, etc).

**Ex.** *We need **some** coffee and **some** biscuits.*

- We use **some** in positive statements.

**Ex.** *We've got **some** bread. He gave her **some** roses.*

- We use **any** in questions and not **any/no** in negations.

**Ex.** *Have you got **any** sugar?*

**Ex.** *We haven't got **any** friends. (= We have no friends.)*

**Ex.** *I haven't got **any** money. (= I've got no money.)*

- We use **some** in questions when we make an offer or a polite request.

**Ex.** *Would you like **some** tea? (offer)*

**Ex.** *Can I have **some** fruit juice, please? (request)*



# A lot of – Much/Many

We normally use **a lot of/lots of** in **positive statements** with **plural countable nouns** and **uncountable nouns**.

We omit **of** when **a lot/lots** is not followed by a noun.

*Ex. Ann's got **a lot of/lots of** friends. There's **a lot of** cheese on the pizza.*

**BUT** *Have you got **many** CDs? Yes, I've got **a lot/lots**. (NOT: a lot of/lots of)*

- We normally use **much and many** in **questions** and **negations**.

**Much** is followed by **uncountable nouns** and **many** is followed by **plural countable nouns**.

*Ex. Is there **much** snow in London?*

*Ex. There isn't **much** fuel left.*

*Ex. Has she got **many** history books?*

*Ex. He hasn't got **many** DVDs.*



# How much/How many – Too much/Too many

We use **how much** and **how many** in **questions**.

how much + uncountable noun (amount)

**Ex.** *How much sugar do you want? Not much.*

how many + countable noun (number)

**Ex.** *How many close friends do you have? Three.*

**Too much** and **too many** can be used with **uncountable nouns** and **plural countable nouns** respectively, and have a **negative meaning**. They show that there is more of something than is wanted or needed.

**Ex.** *There are too many people in this room.*

*There's too much traffic today.*

# A few/few – A little/little

- We use **a few/few** with **plural countable nouns** (oranges, dogs, etc).

**A few** means **not many, but enough**.

*Ex. I've got **a few** peaches. I'll make some jam.*

**Few** means **hardly any/almost none**, and can go with **very** for emphasis.

*Ex. **(Very) few** students attend this course because it's not interesting.*

- We use **a little/little** with **uncountable nouns** (milk, honey, water, etc).

**A little** means **not much, but enough**.

*Ex. I've got **a little** money. Let's have a drink.*

**Little** means **hardly any/almost none**, and can go with **very** for emphasis.

*Ex. She has **little** patience with her students.*

# Some/Any/No/Every + body(one)/thing/where (1)

• **Someone/somebody** (person), **something** (thing) and **somewhere** (place) are normally used in **positive sentences**. They can also be used in **questions** to make an **offer**, a **polite request** or when we **expect a positive answer**.

*Ex. There is **someone** at the door.*

*Ex. Would you like **something** to read?*

• **Any** and its **compounds** (**anyone/anybody**, **anything**, **anywhere**) are normally used in **questions** and **negations**.

*Ex. There aren't **any** copies left. (negation)*

*Ex. Is there **anything** we can do for you? (question)*

They can also be used in positive sentences meaning **whoever / whatever / wherever**.

*Ex. You can ask **anybody** to help with you. (= whoever)*

*Ex. I would do **anything** for you. (= whatever)*



# Some/Any/No/Every + body(one)/thing/where (2)

- **No one/nobody, nothing** and **nowhere** are used in **negations**.

**Ex.** *There was **no one** in the shop.* (= There wasn't **anyone** in the shop.)

- We use **every** before **singular countable nouns**.

**Ex.** ***Every** day is a different day.*

**Ex.** ***Every** time we meet I tell them I don't like the way they behave.*

- We use **everyone/everybody** and **everything** in **affirmative, interrogative** and **negative** sentences. We use a **singular verb** with these words.

**Ex.** *You may go now. **Everything** I need **is** here on my desk. Thanks.*

**Ex.** *Has **everyone** got a ticket?*