



UNIT

1

Nouns; Noun-Verb Agreement

Exercise A

Circle the correct form of the **noun** or **verb** in brackets.

Example

I like playing (draught / draughts).

- 1 The news about Tom (is / are) very good.
- 2 Six out of ten people (prefer / prefers) tea to coffee.
- 3 You should ask your teacher if you want some (advice / advices) about your work.
- 4 I need some more (wool / wools) to finish knitting this jumper.
- 5 Gymnastics (are / is) a sport that requires skill and dedication.
- 6 Glass is made from (sand / sands).
- 7 Excuse me, where can I find some (informations / information) about New Zealand in this library?
- 8 (Dart / Darts) is a traditional English game.
- 9 Chess (are / is) played all over the world.
- 10 Love (make / makes) the world go around!
- 11 It is useful to have a good sense of (humour / humours).
- 12 The sea is so clear that you can see (flocks / shoals) of tiny fish everywhere!
- 13 The Himalayan mountain (group / range) is the highest in the world.
- 14 The (audience / viewers) in the theatre clapped loudly at the end of the show.
- 15 The ship's (navy / crew) stood proudly and saluted the admiral.
- 16 All the (company / staff) at the school meet regularly once a month.



Exercise B

Choose the correct form of the **noun** in brackets to fill in the gaps.

Gold

Gold was one of the first (1) _____ (metal / metals) to be discovered and used, probably about 8,000 years ago. From studying ancient (2) _____ (culture / cultures), for example the (3) _____ (Egyptian / Egyptians), we know that ancient (4) _____ (people / persons) used gold and (5) _____ (copper / coppers) for (6) _____ (jewellery / jewelleries) such as bracelets and rings.

Gold is found all over the world in the Earth's crust. Some is found in solid rock and is mined. Some is found in small pieces, or (7) _____ (nugget / nuggets), in rivers and streams. The (8) _____ (value / values) of gold is high because it is beautiful and hard to find!

Today gold is used for many different things. Some people have gold fillings in their (9) _____ (tooths / teeth). Surgeons use gold instruments to clear people's arteries. It is also used in computers: a fine, gold wire is used to connect the 'semi-conductors', or 'brains', of the computer.

However, for the (10) _____ (majority / majorities) of people, it is the (11) _____ (beauty / beauties) of gold which is the most important (12) _____ (quality / qualities).





Exercise C

Fill in the gaps with the correct **singular** or **plural** form of the nouns from the box. Use every noun only once.

caterpillar
moth

country
satin

fabric
time

leaf
day

metre
warmth

thread
cocoon

Silk

Silk is a fibre that is made naturally. It comes from the cocoon of one kind of moth. Silkworms are not really worms but are (1) _____ hatched from eggs laid by a female moth. The silkworms are kept in a special container and they are fed on (2) _____ from the mulberry tree. They don't spend much (3) _____ in these containers – only about 4 weeks. Then they are ready to spin their cocoons. In the wild, they would stay in their cocoons for about 16 (4) _____ before breaking out and flying away as (5) _____. But on a silk farm, the silkworms are killed and the fibre from the cocoon is unwound. Each (6) _____ produces a long silk (7) _____ of between 600 and 900 (8) _____ !

Silk was first used in Asian (9) _____, especially China and Japan, but then spread to Europe in the fifteenth century. It is used to make very soft, fine material and can also be made into other (10) _____, such as (11) _____. Silk has two wonderful qualities: (12) _____ when the weather is cold, and coolness when it is hot.

