**Uncountable and plural nouns: Activity 1**

Read Grammar Bank 9B. Then choose the correct answers. Listen and check.

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| Grammar Bank  **9B** uncountable and plural nouns  **uncountable nouns** EXAMPLES **1** The **weather** is fantastic there, and there’s very little **traffic**, so you can walk everywhere.     The **scenery** is beautiful here, but it’s spoiled by all the **trash** people leave.  **2** Could you give me **some advice** about where to stay?     One useful **piece of advice** is to get a metro card.  **3** The new opera house is made mainly of **glass**.     Can I have **a glass** of tap water, please? FORM **1** The following nouns are always uncountable: *behavior, health, politics* (and other words ending in *-ics*, e.g., *athletics, economics*), *progress, trash, scenery, traffic, weather, work*.   * Uncountable nouns don’t have a plural form, and they use a singular verb. **NOT** *The sceneries are beautiful here*. * Don’t use *a / an* with uncountable nouns. **NOT** *There’s a terrible traffic this evening*.   **2** These nouns are also uncountable: *advice, bread, equipment, furniture, homework, information, luck, luggage, news, research, toast*. With these, you can use *a piece of* to talk about an individual item.  **3** Some nouns can be either countable (C) or uncountable (U), but the meaning changes, e.g.,  *a glass* (C) = the thing you drink out of; *glass* (U) = the material used to make windows.  Other examples: *business, iron, light, paper, space, time*.  **plural and collective nouns** EXAMPLES **1** One of the best museums is on **the outskirts** of the city.     My **clothes are** filthy. I’ll put on **some clean pants** / I’ll put on **a pair of clean pants**.  **2** The hotel **staff is** very efficient.     The **cabin crew is** coming around with the snack cart in just a few minutes. FORM **1** *arms* (= guns, etc.), *belongings, clothes, manners, outskirts, scissors,* and pants*/ shorts* are plural nouns with no singular. They need a plural verb, and they can’t be used with *a* / *an*.   * If the word refers to something with two parts, e.g. *scissors, shorts, pants,* etc., it can be used with *a pair of* or *some*.   **2** *crew, family, government, police, staff, team,* etc. are collective singular nouns and refer to a group of people. They need a singular verb.   * *police* is always used with a plural verb. |

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| 1.  Gymnastics is / is OR are / are my favorite sport.  2.  I bought some / a pair of OR some / a pair of new jeans.  3.  Harvey’s clothes look OR looks / look / looks really expensive.  4.  The flight crew work / work OR works / works hard to make passengers comfortable.  5.  I found out some OR a piece of / a piece of / some interesting information at the meeting.  6.  Could I have a paper OR a piece of paper / a paper / a piece of paper to write down the new words?  7.  I think I’ll have a / a OR some / some time after lunch to help you with that report.  8.  I have a / a OR some / some good news for you about your job application.  9.  We’ve made a lot of progresses / progress / progress OR progresses this semester.  10.  Hello, Reception. Do you have an / an OR some / some iron I could use? |  |

**Uncountable and plural nouns: Activity 2**

Read Grammar Bank 9B. Then rewrite the sentences to correct the mistakes in the phrases in bold.   
Listen and check.

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| **Grammar Bank**  **9B** uncountable and plural nouns  **uncountable nouns** EXAMPLES **1** The **weather** is fantastic there, and there’s very little **traffic**, so you can walk everywhere.     The **scenery** is beautiful here, but it’s spoiled by all the **trash** people leave.  **2** Could you give me **some advice** about where to stay?     One useful **piece of advice** is to get a metro card.  **3** The new opera house is made mainly of **glass**.     Can I have **a glass** of tap water, please? FORM **1** The following nouns are always uncountable: *behavior, health, politics* (and other words ending in *-ics*, e.g., *athletics, economics*), *progress, trash, scenery, traffic, weather, work*.   * Uncountable nouns don’t have a plural form, and they use a singular verb. **NOT** *The sceneries are beautiful here*. * Don’t use *a / an* with uncountable nouns. **NOT** *There’s a terrible traffic this evening*.   **2** These nouns are also uncountable: *advice, bread, equipment, furniture, homework, information, luck, luggage, news, research, toast*. With these, you can use *a piece of* to talk about an individual item.  **3** Some nouns can be either countable (C) or uncountable (U), but the meaning changes, e.g.,  *a glass* (C) = the thing you drink out of;*glass* (U) = the material used to make windows.  Other examples: *business, iron, light, paper, space, time*.  **plural and collective nouns** EXAMPLES **1** One of the best museums is on **the outskirts** of the city.     My **clothes are** filthy. I’ll put on **some clean pants** / I’ll put on **a pair of clean pants**.  **2** The hotel **staff is** very efficient.     The **cabin crew is** coming around with the snack cart in just a few minutes. FORM **1** *arms* (= guns, etc.), *belongings, clothes, manners, outskirts, scissors,* and pants*/ shorts* are plural nouns with no singular. They need a plural verb, and they can’t be used with *a* / *an*.   * If the word refers to something with two parts, e.g.*scissors, shorts, pants,* etc., it can be used with *a pair of* or *some*.   **2** *crew, family, government, police, staff, team,* etc. are collective singular nouns and refer to a group of people. They need a singular verb.   * *police* is always used with a plural verb. |

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| 1.  We had **a beautiful weather** when we were on vacation.    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .  2.  They have **some lovely furnitures** in their house.    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .  3.  My brother gave me **a useful piece of advices**.    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .  4.  Do you have **﻿a scissors**? I need to wrap this present.    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .  5.  **The hotel staff is** real professionals.    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .  6.  I need to buy **a new pants** for my interview tomorrow.    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .  7.  **The news are** good! \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ !  8.  **The homeworks were** very difficult last night.    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .  9.  **Our accommodation aren’t** satisfactory. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .  10.  **The police is sure** that they know who was responsible for the vandalism.    \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . |  |

**Word building: prefixes and suffixes: Activity 1**

Read the sentences. Match the bold prefixes (1–11) to their meanings (A–K). Listen and check.

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| **1.**  \_\_\_ Mumbai is a very **over**crowded city.  **2.**  \_\_\_ Tokyo was one of the first **mega**cities.  **3.**  \_\_\_ This part of the city is very poor and **under**developed.  **4.**  \_\_\_ London is a very **multi**cultural city, with many different races and religions.  **5.**  \_\_\_ The quickest way to get around New York is on the **sub**way.  **6.**  \_\_\_ Many people in Montreal are **bi**lingual – they speak English and French.  **7.**  \_\_\_ If you want to avoid the traffic jams in Bangkok, take the **mono**rail.  **8.**  \_\_\_  The **auto**pilot was turned on after the plane had taken off.  **9.**  \_\_\_ Vandalism, especially breaking public property, is very **anti**social behavior.  **10.** \_\_\_ I **mis**understood the directions and now I’m completely lost.  **11.** \_\_\_ He’s earning a **post**graduate degree in aeronautical engineering. **A**  against **B**  many **C**  enormous **D**  not enough **E**  one **F**  by (it)self **G**  too much **H**  two **I**  after **J**  under **K**  wrongly |  |

**Word building: prefixes and suffixes: Activity 2**

Match the bold suffixes to their meanings.

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| with without resistant to can be done |

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| 1. There are a lot of home**less** people in this city. The situation is hope**less**. |  |
| 2.  Be care**ful** how you drive! The instructions were very use**ful**. |  |
| 3. The police usually wear bullet**proof** vests. My watch is water**proof**. |  |
| 4. Their new laptops are unbreak**able**. I don’t think the tap water here is drink**able**. |  |

**Word building: prefixes and suffixes: Activity 3**

Write the noun form of the word in parentheses. Then listen and check.

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| ***-ion*** / ***-(a)tion*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (intend)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (reduce) ***-ment*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  (employ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (entertain)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (excite)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  (govern)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  (improve) ***-ness*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (friendly) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (lonely) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (ugly) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  (weak) ***-ence / -ance*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (absent) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (distant) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (ignorant) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (violent) ***-ism*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (race) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vandal) ***-hood*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (brother) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (child) |  |

**Word building: prefixes and suffixes: Activity 4**

Write the verb or adjective form of the nouns. Listen and check.

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| 1.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*verb*)   loss (*noun*)  2.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*verb*)   death (*noun*)  3.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*verb*)   success (*noun*)  4.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*verb*)   thought (*noun*)  5.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*verb*)   belief (*noun*)  6.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*adj.*)   heat (*noun*)  7.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*adj.*)   strength (*noun*)  8.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*adj.*)   hunger (*noun*)  9.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*adj.*)   height (*noun*)  10.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*adj.*)   width (*noun*) |  |

**Word stress with prefixes and suffixes**

Listen and read. Which syllable has the main stress? Choose the correct answers. Then listen again and repeat.

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| 1. a|cco|mmo|da|tion   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable * fourth syllable |  |
| 2. an|ti|so|cial   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable * fourth syllable |  |
| 3. bi|ling|ual   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable * fourth syllable |  |
| 4. en|ter|tain|ment   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable * fourth syllable |  |
| 5. go|vern|ment   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable |  |
| 6. home|less   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable |  |
| 7. lone|li|ness   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable |  |
| 8. mul|ti|cul|tu|ral   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable * fourth syllable |  |
| 9. neigh|bor|hood   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable |  |
| 10. o|ver|crow|ded   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable * fourth syllable |  |
| 11. po|ver|ty   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable |  |
| 12. un|der|de|ve|loped   * un|der|de|ve|loped * second syllable * third syllable * fourth syllable |  |

## Interview with a travel writer: Activity 1

Listen to an interview with Miles Roddis, a travel writer for the Lonely Planet guidebook series, talking about his five favorite cities. Choose *True* or *False*.

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* 1. Miles's son used to live in Sydney.
  + True
  + False
  1. Sydney is a culturally diverse city.
  + True
  + False
  1. Miles's wife comes from Edinburgh, so he knows the city well.
  + True
  + False
  1. Miles says there are two festivals in Edinburgh in August each year.
  + True
  + False
  1. Miles and his wife had two children while they were living in Egypt.
  + True
  + False
  1. The thing Miles likes most about Cairo is the Pyramids.
  + True
  + False
  1. Most tourists who visit Florence and Pisa also take a day trip to Lucca.
  + True
  + False
  1. Opera performances take place beside Lucca cathedral every year.
  + True
  + False
  1. Miles was still a student when he visited Vientiane in Laos.
  + True
  + False
  1. Miles learned an important lesson about happiness in Laos.
  + True
  + False

## Interview with a travel writer: Activity 2

Listen to the interview again and look at the extracts. Match the words in bold to the definitions. Write *A-H*. You can read the audio script to help you.

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| Interviewer So, Miles, you’re going to tell us about your top five cities. Miles Yes. It was a difficult question for me because, of course, as a travel writer I’ve been to so many places. But, in the end, I decided that if I was making a personal choice, they had to be cities that meant something to me personally, that had a personal connection. So, these aren’t necessarily big tourist cities, though some of them are, but the cities that are my own personal top five. Incidentally, these five aren’t in any particular order. Interviewer So, what’s the first one in your top five? Miles Well, the first one is Sydney. The personal connection is that my son and his family live there, so of course my wife and I have been there quite often and got to know it well. Of course, there are lots of amazing things about Sydney. For one thing it’s a waterfront city, it has the sea all around it; there’s wonderful surfing on Bondi beach and plenty of great little bays for sunbathing and swimming. It’s also a very cosmopolitan city. Sydneysiders – which is what people from Sydney are called – come from all corners of the world, so for example the choice of places to eat is endless. You can find everything from simple soup kitchens to elegant, world class restaurants so you can choose to eat Thai, Vietnamese, Greek, Italian and many, many other kinds of cuisine. Interviewer And your second city? Miles My wife and I spent our honeymoon in Edinburgh, so it’s always been a special place for me. But I think it’s especially exciting during the Festival, which happens every August. Of course, there’s a fantastic program of music, and dance, and the arts. But what gives the city a special buzz during the Festival is “the Fringe.” The Fringe is a massive alternative festival, and it has literally hundreds of events – comedy, theater, amateur student groups, street entertainers. And, of course, the pubs stay open until much later than usual during the Festival and that adds to the atmosphere too. However, it’s really hard to get accommodation during the Festival so you need to book well in advance. Interviewer I must say, I’ve never been to the Festival, though I’ve often thought about going. Next year I really have to get there. What about your third city? Miles My third city is Cairo. We lived there for five years in the 70s and both our sons were born there, beside the River Nile. People always associate Cairo with the Pyramids, and of course they are amazing, but for me the best thing about it is the museums, which are absolutely fantastic. The Egyptian Museum has the world’s largest and best collection from Pharaonic times. Then the Coptic museum, which is in the suburb of Al Fustat has the best of Egypt’s Christian culture. And the Museum of Islamic Art has a whole lot of exquisite pieces from Muslim times. So if you’re someone who likes museums and antiquities, my advice is go to Cairo. Interviewer Oh? I *have* been to Cairo and I completely agree with you. And your next one? Miles For my next one we’re back in Europe in Italy. I’ve chosen Lucca, in Tuscany. Tuscany’s two major tourist towns, Florence and Pisa, are absolutely jam-packed with tourists all year round, but most of them never get to Lucca. You can only really explore it on foot, which is the way I like to move around a town, and in about an hour you can do the four-kilometer circuit all around its Renaissance town walls. These walls are amazing – they’re completely intact, and you can peer into people’s living rooms as you walk past. Or you can walk from one end of the town to the other along Via Fillungo. Also, Lucca is the birthplace of Puccini, who’s one of my all-time favorite composers. He played the organ of the town’s magnificent cathedral when he was a young man, and there’s a wonderful open-air festival every year where they perform his operas at a place called Torre del Lago, which is just nearby. Interviewer And your last city? Miles My last city is one that not many people have been to – it’s not on the usual tourist route. I’d just finished university and I was curious about the wider world, so I went to Laos in South East Asia. Laos and its capital, Vientiane, were my first experience of living and working outside western Europe. The Laotians are a lovely, gentle, laid-back people. They taught me to relax. And they showed me how it’s quite possible to be happy with very little money. The scenery is spectacular, too. The impressive Mekong River flows far away over the sands in the dry season and speeds by the city like a wide, rushing torrent once the rainy season begins. I remember looking down on it from one of the restaurants along its banks and feeling that it was sweeping away all my troubles. |  |

**1.** ...there’s wonderful surfing on Bondi beach and plenty of great little **bays** for sunbathing and swimming.   \_\_\_  
**2.** ...the choice of places to eat is **endless**.   \_\_\_  
**3.** But what gives the city a special **buzz** during the festival is "the Fringe."   \_\_\_  
**4.** And the Museum of Islamic Art has a whole lot of **exquisite** pieces from Muslim times.   \_\_\_

**5.** ...Florence and Pisa, are absolutely **jam-packed** with tourists all year round…    \_\_\_

**6.** ...you can **peer** into people’s living rooms as you walk past.   \_\_\_  
**7.**The Laotians are a lovely, **gentle**, laid-back people.   \_\_\_  
**8.** I remember looking down...and feeling that it was **sweeping away** all my troubles.   \_\_\_  
**A**  calm and kind; doing things in a quiet and careful way   
**B**  very large in size or amount and seeming to have no end   
**C**  very full or crowded  
**D**  to get rid of something completely  
**E**  a strong feeling of pleasure, excitement or energy  
**F**to look closely or carefully at something, especially when you cannot see it clearly  
**G**  a part of the sea, or of a large lake, partly surrounded by a wide curve of the land  
**H**  extremely beautiful or carefully made