

Grammar

Singular and Plural

There + Be + Noun

**Articles and Quantity
Words**

Context

**Americans and Where
They Live**



Americans and Where They Live¹

Before

You Read

1. Do you know anyone who lives alone?
2. Does your family own a house or rent an apartment?




CD 1, TR 16

Read the following Web article. Pay special attention to plural nouns.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing http://www.website*reading.com. The article text is as follows:

There are over 300 million **people** in the United States.

- The average family has 3.19 **people**.
- 6% of **children** live in **households** run by one or both **grandparents**.
- 68% of **children** live with two **parents**.



- 16% of **males** 25–34 live at home with one or both **parents**.
- 9% of **females** 25–34 live at home with one or both **parents**.
- 27% of **Americans** live alone. (Compare this figure to the percentage in 1940–8%.)
- 39% of **households** have a dog.
- 31% of **households** have a cat.

Homes:

- 67% of American **families** own their **homes**.
- 25% of **homeowners** are over 65 years old.
- The price of **homes** depends on the city where you live. Some **cities**, such as San Francisco, Boston, San Diego, Honolulu, and New York, have very expensive homes.
- The average American moves a lot. In a five-year period, 46% of **Americans** change their address. **Renters** move more than **owners**. Young **people** move more than older people.

¹Statistics are from the 2007 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

4.1 Singular and Plural—An Overview

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
Some kids live with one parent . Some kids live with two parents . Everyone pays taxes .	Singular means one. Plural means more than one. Plural nouns usually end in <i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i> .
Some young men and women live with their parents. Some children live with their grandparents.	Some plural forms are irregular. They don't end in <i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i> . man → men woman → women child → children

EXERCISE 1 Tell whether the statement is true (T) or false (F).

EXAMPLE Homes in Boston are very expensive. T

1. Most American children live with their grandparents.
2. More Americans live alone now than in 1940.
3. Most people rent an apartment.
4. Americans stay in the same house for their entire lives.
5. Cats are more popular than dogs in American homes.
6. Families in the U.S. are small (fewer than five people).
7. Most children live with both parents.
8. The price of homes depends on where you live.
9. Most homeowners are over 65 years old.
10. More males 25–34 than females 25–34 live with their parents.
11. Homes in San Francisco are very expensive.

4.2 Spelling of Regular Noun Plurals

WORD ENDING	EXAMPLE WORDS	PLURAL ADDITION	PLURAL FORM
Vowel	bee banana pie	+ -s	bees bananas pies
Consonant	bed pin month	+ -s	beds pins months
<i>ss, sh, ch, x</i>	class dish church box	+ -es	classes dishes churches boxes
Vowel + y	boy day monkey	+ -s	boys days monkeys
Consonant + y	lady story party	y + -ies	ladies stories parties
Vowel + o	patio stereo radio	+ -s	patios stereos radios
Consonant + o	mosquito tomato potato	+ -es	mosquitoes tomatoes potatoes
Exceptions: photos, pianos, solos, altos, sopranos, autos, avocados			
f or fe	leaf calf knife	f + -ves fe + -ves	leaves calves knives
Exceptions: beliefs, chiefs, roofs, chefs			

EXERCISE 2 Write the plural form of each noun.

EXAMPLES leaf leaves
toy toys

1. dish _____
2. country _____
3. half _____
4. book _____
5. boy _____
6. girl _____
7. bench _____
8. box _____
9. shark _____
10. stereo _____

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 11. knife _____ | 22. roach _____ |
| 12. story _____ | 23. fox _____ |
| 13. sofa _____ | 24. house _____ |
| 14. key _____ | 25. turkey _____ |
| 15. movie _____ | 26. chicken _____ |
| 16. squirrel _____ | 27. wolf _____ |
| 17. mosquito _____ | 28. dog _____ |
| 18. lion _____ | 29. bath _____ |
| 19. fly _____ | 30. pony _____ |
| 20. cow _____ | 31. duck _____ |
| 21. table _____ | 32. moth _____ |

4.3 Pronunciation of Plural Nouns

The plural ending has three pronunciations: /s/, /z/, and /əz/.

PRONUNCIATION	RULE	EXAMPLES
/s/	Pronounce /s/ after voiceless sounds: /p, t, k, f, θ/.	lip—lips cat—cats rock—rocks cuff—cuffs month—months
/z/	Pronounce /z/ after voiced sounds: /b, d, g, v, m, n, ŋ, l, r/ and all vowels.	cab—cabs can—cans lid—lids thing—things bag—bags bill—bills stove—stoves car—cars sum—sums bee—bees
/əz/	Pronounce /əz/ when the base form ends in <i>s, ss, ce, se, sh, ch, ge,</i> and <i>x</i> .	bus—buses dish—dishes class—classes beach—beaches place—places garage—garages cause—causes tax—taxes

EXERCISE 3 Go back to Exercise 2 and pronounce the plural form of each word.

4.4 Irregular Noun Plurals

SINGULAR	PLURAL	EXPLANATION
man woman tooth foot goose	men women teeth feet geese	Some nouns have a vowel change in the plural form. Singular: Do you see that old woman ? Plural: Do you see those young women ?
sheep fish deer	sheep fish deer	Some plural forms are the same as the singular form. Singular: I have one fish in my tank. Plural: She has ten fish in her tank.
child person mouse	children people mice	For some plurals, we change to a different form. Singular: She has one child . Plural: They have two children .
	pajamas clothes pants/slacks (eye)glasses scissors	Some words have no singular form. Examples: My pants are new. Do you like them? My glasses are dirty. I can't see with them.
dozen hundred thousand million		Exact numbers use the singular form. Examples: The U.S. has over 300 million people. I need to buy two dozen eggs.
	dozens hundreds thousands millions	The plural form of a number is <i>not</i> an exact number. Examples: Thousands of people live alone. Millions of people live in New York City.
<p>Pronunciation Note: You hear the difference between <i>woman</i> (singular) and <i>women</i> (plural) in the first syllable. Listen to your teacher pronounce <i>one woman</i> and <i>two women</i>.</p> <p>Language Note: The plural of <i>person</i> can also be <i>persons</i>, but <i>people</i> is more common.</p>		

EXERCISE 4 The following nouns have an irregular plural form. Write the plural.

EXAMPLE man _____ **men** _____

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. foot _____ | 5. fish _____ |
| 2. woman _____ | 6. mouse _____ |
| 3. policeman _____ | 7. sheep _____ |
| 4. child _____ | 8. tooth _____ |

EXERCISE 5 Fill in the blanks with the correct plural form of the noun in parentheses ().

EXAMPLE Some people like to live alone.
(person)

1. Most _____ in the U.S. own a house.
(family)
2. The U.S. has over 300 million _____.
(person)
3. Americans move many _____.
(time)
4. Some _____ earn more money than their _____.
(woman) (husband)
5. _____ are very expensive in some _____.
(Home) (city)
6. Divorce is very high in some _____.
(country)
7. Some _____ live with only one parent.
(child)
8. How many square _____ does your house or apartment have?
(foot)
9. Some _____ live with _____.
(kid) (grandparent)
10. The average family has 3.19 _____.
(person)
11. Some apartments have a problem with _____.
(mouse)
12. _____ are popular in the U.S.
(pet)
13. _____ are more common than _____.
(dog) (cat)
14. _____ are interesting to watch.
(fish)

Finding an Apartment

Before You Read

1. Do you live in a house, an apartment, or a dorm?² Do you live alone?
2. Do you like the place where you live? Why or why not?



CD 1, TR 17

Read the following Web article. Pay special attention to *there + be* followed by singular and plural nouns.

Did You Know?

Nowadays, people search for apartments online using Web sites such as *Craigslist.org*.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing http://www.website*reading.com. The main content of the page is an article titled "Finding an Apartment".

There are several ways to find an apartment. One way is to look in the newspaper. **There is** an “Apartments for Rent” section in the back of the newspaper. **There are** many ads for apartments. **There are** also ads for houses for rent and houses for sale. Many newspapers also put their listings online.

Another way to find an apartment is by looking at the buildings in the neighborhood where you want to live. **There are** often “For Rent” signs on the front of the buildings. **There is** usually a phone number on the sign. You can call and ask for information about the apartment that you are interested in. You can ask:

- How much is the rent?
- Is heat included?
- What floor is the apartment on?
- **Is there** an elevator?
- How many bedrooms **are there** in the apartment?
- How many closets **are there** in the apartment?
- Is the apartment available³ now?

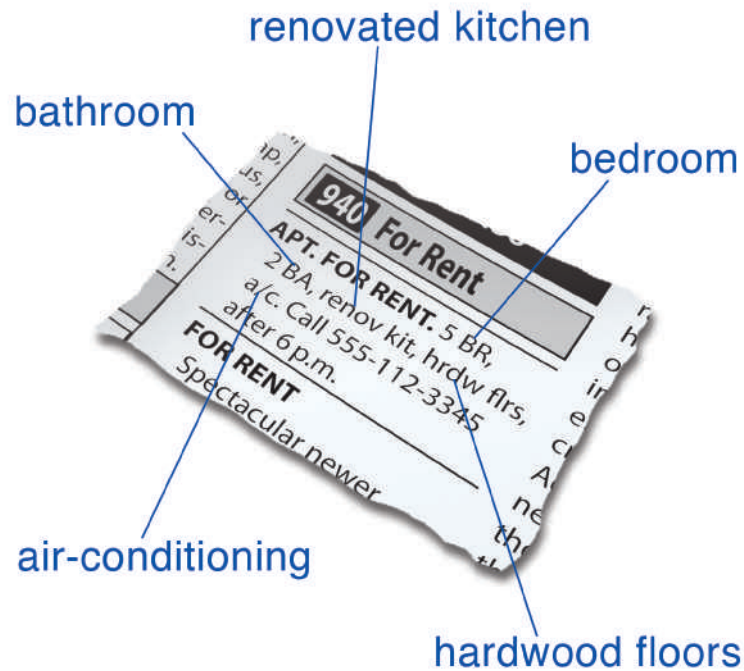
If an apartment interests you, you can make an appointment to see it. When you go to see the apartment, you should ask some more questions, such as the following:

- **Is there** a lease?⁴ How long is the lease?
- **Is there** a janitor or manager?

²Dorm is short for *dormitory*, a building where students live.

³Available means ready to use now.

⁴A lease is a contract between the owner (landlord or landlady) and the renter (tenant). It tells how much the rent is, how long the tenant can stay in the apartment, and other rules.



- **Is there** a parking space for each tenant? Is it free, or do I have to pay extra?
- **Are there** smoke detectors? (In many places, the law says that the landlord must put a smoke detector in each apartment and in the halls.)
- **Is there** a laundry room in the building? Where is it?

The landlord may ask you a few questions, such as:

- How many people **are there** in your family?
- Do you have any pets?

You should check over the apartment carefully before you sign the lease. If **there are** some problems, you should talk to the landlord to see if he will take care of them before you move in.

4.5 Using *There* + *Is/Are*

We use *there* + *is* or *there* + *are* to introduce a subject into the conversation when we show location or time.

	EXAMPLES				
Affirmative Singular	<i>There</i>	<i>is</i>	<i>a/an/one</i>	Singular Subject	Location/Time
	There	is	a	janitor	in my building.
	There	is	an	air conditioner	in the bedroom.
	There	is	one	dryer	in the basement.
	There	is	a	rent increase	this year.
	Note: <i>There's</i> is the contraction for <i>there is</i> .				
Negative Singular	<i>There</i>	<i>isn't</i>	<i>a/an</i>	Singular Subject	Location/Time
	There	isn't	a	back door	in my apartment.
	There	isn't	an	elevator	in the building.
	<i>There's</i>	<i>no</i>		Singular Subject	Location/Time
	There's	no		balcony	in my apartment.
There's	no		heat	this month.	
Affirmative Plural	<i>There</i>	<i>are</i>	Plural Word	Plural Subject	Location/Time
	There	are	several	windows	in the bedroom.
	There	are	many	children	in the building.
	There	are	some	cats	in the building.
	There	are	two	closets	in the hall.
	There	are	—	curtains	on the windows.
	Note: We don't write a contraction for <i>there are</i> .				
Negative Plural	<i>There</i>	<i>aren't</i>	<i>any</i>	Plural Subject	Location/Time
	There	aren't	any	shades	on the windows.
	There	aren't	any	new tenants	this month.
	<i>There</i>	<i>are</i>	<i>no</i>	Plural Subject	Location/Time
	There	are	no	cabinets	in the kitchen.

Language Note:

- When two nouns follow *there*, use a singular verb (*is*) if the first noun is singular. Use a plural verb (*are*) if the first noun is plural.

There is a closet in the bedroom and two closets in the hall.

There are two closets in the hall and one closet in the bedroom.

There is a washer and dryer in the basement.

- There* never introduces a specific or unique noun. The definite article (*the*) indicates a specific or unique noun.

Wrong: *There's* the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Right: The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.

EXERCISE 6

ABOUT YOU Use the words given to make a statement about the place where you live (house or apartment). If you live in a dorm, use Exercise 7 instead.

EXAMPLES

porch

carpet / in the living room
There's a carpet in the living room.

trees / in front of the building
There are no trees in front of the building.



replace

1. porch
2. blinds / on the windows
3. door / in every room
4. window / in every room
5. lease
6. closet / in the living room
7. number / on the door of the apartment or house
8. overhead light / in every room
9. microwave oven / in the kitchen
10. back door
11. fireplace
12. smoke detector



blinds



smoke detector

EXERCISE 7

ABOUT YOU Make a statement about your dorm and dorm room with the words given. (If you live in an apartment or house, skip this exercise.)

EXAMPLES

window shades

window / in the room
There's a window in the room.
curtains / on the window
There are no curtains on the window.
There are shades.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. closet / in the room | 6. snack machines / in the dorm |
| 2. two beds / in the room | 7. noisy students / in the dorm |
| 3. private bath / for every room | 8. numbers / on the doors of the rooms |
| 4. men and women / in the dorm | 9. elevator(s) / in the dorm |
| 5. cafeteria / in the dorm | 10. laundry room / in the dorm |

4.6 Questions and Short Answers Using *There*

Compare statements and questions with *there*. Observe short answers.

	EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
Singular Statement Yes/No Question Short Answer	There is a laundry room in the building. Is there an elevator in the building? Yes, there is.	Question word order: <i>Is + there + a/an + singular noun...?</i> Short answers: Yes, there is. (no contraction) No, there isn't. OR No, there's not.
Plural Statement Yes/No Question Short Answer	There are some children in the building. Are there (any) children on your floor? No, there aren't.	Question word order: <i>Are + there + (any) + plural noun...?</i> We often use <i>any</i> to introduce a plural noun in a <i>yes/no</i> question. Short answers: Yes, there are. No, there aren't.
Plural Statement Information Question Short Answer	There are ten apartments in my building. How many apartments are there in your building? Thirty.	Question word order: <i>How many + plural noun + are there...?</i>

EXERCISE 8 **ABOUT YOU** Ask and answer questions with *there* and the words given to find out about another student's apartment and building. (If you live in a dorm, use Exercise 9 instead.)

EXAMPLES a microwave oven / in your apartment

A: Is there a microwave oven in your apartment?

B: No, there isn't.

closets / in the bedroom

A: Are there any closets in the bedroom?

B: Yes. There's one closet in the bedroom.

1. children / in your building

2. a dishwasher / in the kitchen

3. a yard / in front of your building
4. trees / in front of your building
5. a basement / in your building
6. a laundry room / in the basement
7. a janitor / in your building
8. noisy neighbors / in your building
9. nosy⁵ neighbors / in your building
10. an elevator / in your building
11. parking spaces / for the tenants
12. a lot of closets / in the apartment
13. how many apartments / in your building
14. how many parking spaces / in front of your building

EXERCISE 9 **ABOUT YOU** Ask and answer questions with *there* and the words given to find out about another student's dorm. (If you live in an apartment or house, skip this exercise.)

EXAMPLE a bicycle room

A: Is there a bicycle room in your dorm?

B: No, there isn't.

1. married students
2. private rooms
3. a bicycle room
4. a computer room
5. an elevator
6. a bulletin board
7. graduate students
8. a quiet place to study
9. an air conditioner / in your room
10. a parking lot / for your dorm
11. how many rooms / in your dorm
12. how many floors / in your dorm

⁵A nosy person is a person who wants to know everyone's business.

EXERCISE 10 Use the words given to ask the teacher a question about his or her office. Your teacher will answer.

EXAMPLES pencil sharpener

A: Is there a pencil sharpener in your office?

B: No, there isn't.

books

A: Are there any books in your office?

B: Yes. There are a lot of books in my office.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. phone | 7. calendar |
| 2. file cabinet | 8. bookshelves |
| 3. photos of your family | 9. plants |
| 4. radio | 10. pictures |
| 5. copy machine | 11. fax machine |
| 6. windows | 12. computer |

EXERCISE 11 A student is calling about an apartment for rent. Fill in the blanks with *there is*, *there are*, *is there*, *are there*, and other related words to complete this phone conversation between the student (S) and the landlord (L).



CD 1, TR 18

S: I'm calling about an apartment for rent on Grover Street.

L: We have two apartments available. There's a four-room apartment on the first floor and a three-room apartment on the fourth floor. Which one are you interested in?
(example)

S: I prefer the smaller apartment. _____ an elevator in the building?
(1)

L: Yes, there is. How many people _____ in your family?
(2)

S: It's just for me. I live alone. I'm a student. I need a quiet apartment. Is this a quiet building?

L: Oh, yes. _____ no kids in the building. This is a very quiet building.
(3)

S: That's good. I have a car. _____ parking spaces?
(4)

L: Yes. _____ twenty spaces in the back of the building.
(5)

S: How _____ apartments _____ in the building?
(6) (7)





- L:** _____ 30 apartments.
(8)
- S:** Twenty parking spaces for thirty apartments? Then _____
enough spaces for all the tenants. (9)
- L:** Don't worry. Not everyone has a car. Parking is on a first-come,
first-served basis.⁶ And _____ plenty of⁷ spaces on the
street. (10)
- S:** _____ a laundry room in the building?
(11)
- L:** Yes. There are washers and dryers in the basement.
- S:** How much is the rent?
- L:** It's \$850 a month.
- S:** I hear a dog. Is that your dog?
- L:** Yes, but don't worry. I don't live in the building. _____
no dogs in the building. (12)
- S:** When can I see the apartment?
- L:** How about tomorrow at six o'clock?
- S:** That'll be fine. Thanks.

4.7 There vs. They and Other Pronouns

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
<p>There's a <i>janitor</i> in the building. He's in the basement.</p>	<p>To introduce a new noun, we use <i>there + is/are</i>. When we use this noun again as the subject of another sentence, we use <i>he, she, it, or they</i>.</p>
<p>There's a little <i>girl</i> in the next apartment. She's cute.</p>	
<p>There's an empty <i>apartment</i> on the first floor. It's available now.</p>	
<p>There are two washing <i>machines</i>. They're in the basement.</p>	
<p>Pronunciation Note: We pronounce <i>there</i> and <i>they're</i> exactly the same. Spelling Note: Don't confuse <i>there</i> and <i>they're</i>. There are dogs in the next apartment. They're very friendly.</p>	

⁶A *first-come, first-served* basis means that people who arrive first will get something first (parking spaces, theater tickets, classes at registration etc.).

⁷Plenty of means "a lot of."

EXERCISE 12 Fill in the blanks with *there's*, *there are*, *it's*, or *they're*.

EXAMPLE There's a small apartment for rent in my building.
It's on the fourth floor.

- _____ two apartments for rent. _____ not on the same floor.
- _____ a laundry room in the building. _____ in the basement.
- The parking spaces are in the back of the building. _____ for the tenants with cars.
- The parking spaces don't cost extra. _____ free for the tenants.
- The apartment is small. _____ on the fourth floor.
- The building has 30 apartments. _____ a big building.
- The student wants to see the apartment. _____ on Grover Street.
- The building is quiet because _____ no kids in the building.
- How much is the rent? _____ \$850 a month.
- Is the rent high? No, _____ not high.
- _____ no dogs in the building.
- _____ a quiet building.

EXERCISE 13 Ask a question about this school using *there* and the words given. Another student will answer. If the answer is "yes," ask a question with *where*.

EXAMPLE lockers

A: Are there any lockers at this school?

B: Yes, there are.

A: Where are they?

B: They're near the gym.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. a library | 8. tennis courts |
| 2. vending machines | 9. dormitories |
| 3. public telephones | 10. a parking lot |
| 4. a computer room | 11. a bookstore |
| 5. a cafeteria | 12. copy machines |
| 6. a gym | 13. a student lounge |
| 7. a swimming pool | 14. an auditorium |

Calling About an Apartment

Before You Read

1. Does your neighborhood have more apartment buildings or houses?
2. Do you prefer to live alone, with a roommate, or with your family? Why?



Read the following phone conversation between a student (S) and the manager (M) of a building. Pay special attention to the definite article (*the*), the indefinite articles (*a, an*), and indefinite quantity words (*some, any*).

S: Hello? I want to speak with **the landlord**.

M: I'm **the manager** of **the building**. Can I help you?

S: I need to find a new **apartment**.

M: Where do you live now?

S: I live in a **big apartment** on Wright Street. I have a **roommate**, but he's graduating, and I need a smaller **apartment**. Are there **any** small **apartments** for rent in your building?

M: There's one.

S: What floor is it on?

M: It's on **the third floor**.

S: Does it have a **bedroom**?

M: No. It's a **studio apartment**. It has a **living room** and a **kitchen**.

S: Is the **living room** big?

M: So-so.⁸

S: Does **the kitchen** have a **stove** and a **refrigerator**?

M: Yes. **The refrigerator** is old, but it works well. **The stove** is pretty new.

S: Can I see **the apartment**?

M: I have a **question** for you first. Do you have a **dog**? We don't permit **dogs**. **Some dogs** make a lot of noise.



⁸So-so means medium or average.

(continued)

S: I don't have a **dog**.

M: I'm happy to hear that.

S: But I have a **snake**.

M: A **snake**?

S: Snakes are quiet.

M: Yes, but . . .

S: Don't worry. I keep **the snake** in a **glass box**.

M: I hope **the box** is always closed.

S: It is. I only open it to feed **the snake**. I feed it **mice**.

M: Oh.

S: When can I see **the apartment**?

M: I have to speak to **the landlord**. I'm not sure if you can have **snakes** and **mice** in **the apartment**.



4.8 Articles with Definite and Indefinite Nouns

Singular

INDEFINITE	DEFINITE	EXPLANATION
I live in a big building. There's a janitor in the building.	The building is near the college. The janitor lives on the first floor.	We introduce a singular noun with the indefinite articles (<i>a</i> or <i>an</i>). When we refer to this noun again, we use the definite article <i>the</i> .
	May I speak to the landlord? He lives on the third floor. The basement is dirty.	We use <i>the</i> before a singular noun if this noun is the only one or if the speaker and listener share an experience and are referring to the same one. (In this case, they are talking about the same building.)

Plural

INDEFINITE	DEFINITE	EXPLANATION
My building has (some) washing machines. Are there (any) dryers?	The washing machines are in the basement. Where are the dryers?	We introduce a plural noun with <i>some</i> , <i>any</i> , or no article. When we refer to this noun again, we use the definite article <i>the</i> .
	The tenants are angry. The washing machines don't work.	We use <i>the</i> before a plural noun if the speaker and the listener share the same experience. (In this case, they are talking about the same building.)

EXERCISE 14 Fill in the blanks in the conversations between two students. Use *the*, *a*, *an*, *some*, or *any*.

- CONVERSATION 1**
- A:** Is there a cafeteria at this school?
(example)
- B:** Yes, there is.
- A:** Where's cafeteria?
(1)
- B:** It's on first floor.
(2)
- A:** Are there snack machines in cafeteria?
(3) (4)
- B:** Yes, there are.
- A:** I want to buy sandwich.
(5)
- B:** sandwich machine is out of order today.
(6)

- CONVERSATION 2**
- A:** Is there bookstore for this college?
(7)
- B:** Yes, there is.
- A:** Where's bookstore?
(8)
- B:** It's on Green Street.
- A:** I need to buy English dictionary.
(9)
- B:** Today's holiday. bookstore is closed today.
(10) (11)

EXERCISE 15 Fill in the blanks in the conversation about apartment problems. Use *the, a, an, some, or any*.



A: I have a problem in my apartment.
(example)

B: What's problem?
(1)

A: landlord doesn't provide enough
(2) heat. I have to wear sweater or
(3) overcoat all the time in the
(4) apartment.

B: Why don't you talk to building
(5) manager? Maybe heating system is
(6) broken. If he doesn't solve problem,
(7) you can send letter to
(8) Department of Housing.
(9)

A: That's good idea. There's one more problem.
(10) I have neighbor who has small dog.
(11) dog barks all the time when neighbor isn't
(13) home. We share wall, and I can hear dog
(15) barking through wall.
(17)

B: Talk to neighbor. Tell him there are dog services. For
(18) price, someone can go to his house every day and play
(19) with dog and take it out for a walk.
(20)

A: I don't think he wants to pay for this service.

B: Then talk to landlord. Tell him about problem.
(21) (22)

A: Do you have problems in your apartment?
(23)

B: Of course we have problems. But we have very
(24) nice landlady. She lives in building. If there's
(26) problem, I send her e-mail, and she usually takes care of it
(27) right away.
(28)



4.9 Making Generalizations

A generalization says that something is true of all members of a group.

SINGULAR	PLURAL	EXPLANATION
A snake is quiet. A dog makes noise.	Snakes are quiet. Dogs make noise.	To make a generalization about the subject , use the indefinite article (<i>a</i> or <i>an</i>) with a singular subject or no article with a plural subject.
	I don't like snakes . Snakes eat mice .	To make a generalization about the object , use the plural form with no article.

EXERCISE 16 The following sentences are generalizations. Change the subject from singular to plural. Make other necessary changes.

EXAMPLE A single parent has a difficult life.

Single parents have a difficult life.

1. A house in San Diego is expensive.

2. A homeowner pays property tax.

3. A dog is part of the family.

4. A renter doesn't have the freedom to make changes.

5. An owner has the freedom to make changes.

EXERCISE 17 Use the noun in parentheses () to give general information about your native country or hometown. Use the plural form with no article.

EXAMPLE (woman)

Generally, women don't work outside the home in my native country.

1. young (person)

2. old (person)

3. (woman)

4. (man)

5. (house)

6. poor (person)

7. (car)

8. (doctor)

EXERCISE 18 Add a plural subject to make a generalization.

EXAMPLE Students need a cheap apartment.

1. _____ need a big apartment.
2. _____ don't want to rent to people with pets.
3. _____ sometimes make a lot of noise in an apartment.
4. _____ need an apartment with an elevator.
5. _____ are sometimes noisy and sometimes nosy.
6. _____ like houses with a garden.
7. _____ move a lot from place to place.
8. _____ are expensive in the U.S.

EXERCISE 19 **ABOUT YOU** Use the plural form of each noun to tell if you like or don't like the following in the place where you live.

EXAMPLE cabinet in the kitchen
I like cabinets in the kitchen.

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. white wall | 6. blind on the window |
| 2. curtain on the window | 7. high ceiling |
| 3. picture on the wall | 8. bright light |
| 4. plant | 9. rug |
| 5. friendly neighbor | 10. hardwood floor |



curtains



hardwood floors

EXERCISE 20

ABOUT YOU Ask *Do you like* + the plural form of the noun. Another student will answer.

EXAMPLES child

A: Do you like children?

B: Yes, I do.

snake

A: Do you like snakes?

B: No, I don't.

1. cat

7. comic book

2. dog

8. computer

3. hamburger

9. computer game

4. American car

10. strict teacher

5. American movie

11. American supermarket

6. fashion magazine

12. American textbook

EXERCISE 21

This is a conversation between two students. Fill in the blanks with *the, a, an, some, any*, or *X* for no article.

A: Is there a copy machine in our library?
(example)

B: Yes. There are several copy machines in _____ library.
(1)

A: Are _____ copy machines free?
(2)

B: No. You need to use _____ nickel⁹ for _____ copy machines.
(3) *(4)*
What do you want to copy?

A: I want to copy my classmate's textbook.

B: The whole thing? Why?

A: _____ textbooks in the U.S. are too expensive.
(5)

B: There's _____ law against copying an entire book.
(6)

A: What's _____ law?
(7)

B: You can't copy _____ books without permission from the publisher.
(8)

A: In my country, we copy _____ books all the time.
(9)

B: But it's illegal. People who copy _____ books, CDs, and movies
(10)
without permission are called "pirates."

⁹A nickel is a five-cent coin.

Summary of Lesson 4

1. Singular and Plural

REGULAR	IRREGULAR
boy—boys	man—men
box—boxes	woman—women
story—stories	child—children
tomato—tomatoes	foot—feet
wife—wives	fish—fish

2. *There + be*

There's an empty apartment in my building.

There are two washing machines in the basement.

Are there any parking spaces?

3. Articles

- To introduce a new noun into the conversation:

SINGULAR

I have **a dog**.

PLURAL

I have **(some) turtles**.

I don't have **(any) birds**.

- To talk about a previously mentioned noun:

SINGULAR

I have a dog. **The dog** barks when the letter carrier arrives.

PLURAL

I have some turtles. I keep **the turtles** in the bathroom.

- To talk about specific items or people from our experience:

SINGULAR

The janitor cleans the basement once a week.

PLURAL

The tenants have to take out their own garbage.

- To talk about the only one:

The president lives in Washington, D.C.

The Statue of Liberty is in New York.

- To make a generalization:

SINGULAR

A dog has good hearing.

PLURAL

Dogs have good hearing.

I like **dogs**.



Statue of Liberty

Editing Advice

1. *People* is a plural noun. Use a plural verb form.

People in my country ^{are} ~~is~~ very poor.

2. Don't use *the* with a generalization.

~~The~~ ^D dogs are friendly animals.

3. Don't confuse *there* with *they're*.

I have two brothers. ^{They're} ~~There~~ in Florida.

4. Use *there* + *is/are* to introduce a new subject.

^{there are}
In my class [^] five students from Haiti.

5. Don't confuse *it's* and *there's*.

^{There's}
~~It's~~ a closet in my bedroom.

6. Don't confuse *have* and *there*.

^{There's}
~~Have~~ a closet in my bedroom.

7. Don't use *the* + a unique noun after *there*.

^T ~~There's the~~ Golden Gate Bridge ^{is}
in California. [^]

8. Don't use *the* with the first mention of a noun when you and the listener do not share a common experience with this noun.

^a
I have ~~the~~ new watch.

9. Don't use an apostrophe for a plural ending.

^{brothers}
She has three ~~brother's~~.



Golden Gate Bridge

Editing Quiz

Some of the shaded words and phrases have mistakes. Find the mistakes and correct them. If the shaded words are correct, write C.

A: Let me show you around my new apartment.

B: It's a big apartment.
(example)

A: It's big enough for my family. ~~They're~~ ^{There} are four bedrooms and two
(example)

bathrooms. ~~Has a large closet in each bedroom.~~ ⁽¹⁾ Let me show you my kitchen too.

B: Oh. ~~It's~~ ⁽²⁾ a new dishwasher in your kitchen.

A: ~~It's~~ ⁽³⁾ wonderful. You know how I hate to wash dishes.

B: ~~Is there~~ ⁽⁴⁾ a microwave oven?

A: No, ~~there isn't.~~ ⁽⁵⁾

B: ~~Are any~~ ⁽⁶⁾ washers and dryers for clothes?

A: Oh, yes. ~~They're~~ ⁽⁷⁾ in the basement. In the laundry room ~~are~~ ⁽⁸⁾ five washers and five dryers. I never have to wait.

B: ~~There are~~ ⁽⁹⁾ a lot of people in your building?

A: In my building ~~30~~ ⁽¹⁰⁾ apartments.

B: ~~Is a janitor~~ ⁽¹¹⁾ in your building?

A: Yes. ~~There's~~ ⁽¹²⁾ a very good janitor. He keeps the building very clean.

B: I suppose this apartment costs a lot.

A: Well, yes. The rent ~~is~~ ⁽¹³⁾ high. But I share ~~the apartment~~ ⁽¹⁴⁾ with my cousins.

Lesson 4 Test/Review

PART 1 Write the plural form for each noun.

box <u>boxes</u>	month _____	child _____
card _____	match _____	desk _____
foot _____	shelf _____	key _____
potato _____	radio _____	story _____
woman _____	mouse _____	bush _____

PART 2 Fill in the blanks with *there, is, are, it, or they* or a combination of these words.

A: Are there any people from your country in your building?
(example)

B: Yes, _____ a few people from my country in my
(1) building. _____ very friendly.
(2)

A: _____ a laundry room in your building?
(3)

B: Yes, _____.
(4)

A: Where _____ the laundry room?
(5)

B: _____ on the third floor.
(6)

A: _____ any lockers in your apartment building?
(7)

B: Yes, there are. _____ in the basement.
(8)

A: _____ a bicycle room in your building?
(9)

B: Yes, there is. _____ in the basement.
(10)

A: How many floors _____ in your building?
(11)

B: _____ four floors and a basement.
(12)

A: _____ an elevator in your building?
(13)

B: Yes, _____, but _____ very slow.
(14) (15)

I usually walk up the stairs.

PART 3 Fill in the blanks with *the, a, an, some, any*, or *X* for no article.

A: Do you like your apartment?

B: No, I don't.

A: Why not?

B: There are many reasons. First, I don't like the janitor.
(example)
He's impolite.

A: Anything else? Are there _____ other problems?
(1)

B: Yes. I want to get _____ dog.
(2)

A: So?

B: It's not permitted. _____ landlord says that _____ dogs
(3) (4)
make a lot of noise.

A: Can you get _____ cat?
(5)

B: Yes, but I don't like _____ cats.
(6)

A: Is your building quiet?

B: No. There are _____ children in _____ building. When
(7) (8)
I try to study, I can hear _____ children in the next apartment.
(9)
They watch TV all the time.

A: You need to find _____ apartment in a different building.
(10)

B: I think you're right.

Expansion

Classroom

Activities

① Make a list of things you have, things you don't have but would like to have, and things you don't need. Choose from the list below and add any other items you can think of. Then find a partner and compare lists.

- a computer
- a DVD player
- a digital camera
- an encyclopedia
- an electric toothbrush
- a pet
- a scale
- a house
- a diamond ring
- a CD player
- an electric can opener
- a microwave oven
- a waterbed
- an electronic calendar
- a credit card
- a speaker phone
- a cell phone
- a flat-screen TV
- a letter opener
- a hair dryer
- an orange juice squeezer



bathroom scale



orange juice squeezer

I have:	I don't have, but I would like to have:	I don't need:

Discuss your chart with a partner. Tell why you need or don't need some things. Tell why you want some things that you don't have.

2 People often use the newspaper to look for an apartment. The Sunday newspaper has the most ads. Bring in a copy of the Sunday newspaper. Look at the section of the newspaper that has apartments for rent. Ask the teacher to help you understand the abbreviations.

3 What other sections are there in the Sunday newspaper? Work with a partner and make a list of everything you can find in the Sunday paper.

EXAMPLE There's a TV schedule for this week's programs.
There are a lot of ads and coupons.
There's a crossword puzzle.

4 Look at the information about two apartments for rent below. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of each one? Discuss your answers with a partner or with the entire class.

Apartment 1	Apartment 2
a view of a park	on a busy street
rent = \$950	rent = \$750
fifth floor (an elevator in the building)	third floor walk-up
a new kitchen with a dishwasher	old appliances in the kitchen
pets not allowed	pets allowed
hardwood floors	a carpet in the living room
the janitor lives in the building	the owner lives in the building on the first floor
management controls the heat	the tenant controls the heat
no air conditioners	air conditioners in the bedroom and living room
faces north only	faces east, south, and west
a one-year lease	no lease
a large building—50 apartments	a small building—6 apartments
washers and dryers on each floor	a laundry room in the basement
parking spaces on first-come, first-served basis	a parking space for each tenant

5 Do you have a picture of your house, apartment, or apartment building? Bring it to class and talk about it.

6 Find a partner and pretend that one of you is looking for an apartment and the other person is the landlady, landlord, or manager. Ask and answer questions about the apartment, the building, parking, laundry, and rent. Write your conversation. Then read it to the class.

Talk

About It

In a small group or with the entire class, discuss the following:

- a. How do people rent apartments in your hometown? Is rent high? Is heat usually included in the rent? Does the landlord usually live in the building?
- b. What are some differences between a typical apartment in this city and a typical apartment in your hometown?

Write

About It

1 Write a description of a room or place that you like very much. (Review prepositions in Lesson 1.)

2 Write a comparison of your apartment in this city and your apartment or house in your hometown.

Two Apartments

There are many differences between my apartment here and my apartment in Kiev, Ukraine. In my Kiev apartment, there is a door in every room. In my apartment here, only the bedrooms and bathrooms have doors . . .



For more practice using grammar in context, please visit our Web site.