Lesson 4

Grammar
Singular and Plural

There + Be + Noun

Articles and Quantity Words

Context
Americans and Where They Live
Americans and Where They Live

Before You Read

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

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

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

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

**EXERCISE** 1

**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.
11. Homes in San Francisco are very expensive.
### 4.2 Spelling of Regular Noun Plurals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD ENDING</th>
<th>EXAMPLE WORDS</th>
<th>PLURAL ADDITION</th>
<th>PLURAL FORM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vowel</td>
<td>bee</td>
<td>+ -s</td>
<td>bees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>banana</td>
<td></td>
<td>bananas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pie</td>
<td></td>
<td>pies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consonant</td>
<td>bed</td>
<td>+ -s</td>
<td>beds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>pin</td>
<td></td>
<td>pins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>month</td>
<td></td>
<td>months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ss, sh, ch, x</strong></td>
<td>class</td>
<td>+ -es</td>
<td>classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dish</td>
<td></td>
<td>dishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>church</td>
<td></td>
<td>churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>box</td>
<td></td>
<td>boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vowel + y</td>
<td>boy</td>
<td>+ -s</td>
<td>boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>day</td>
<td></td>
<td>days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>monkey</td>
<td></td>
<td>monkeys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consonant + y</td>
<td>lady</td>
<td>y + -ies</td>
<td>ladies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>story</td>
<td></td>
<td>stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>party</td>
<td></td>
<td>parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vowel + o</td>
<td>patio</td>
<td>+ -s</td>
<td>patios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>stereo</td>
<td></td>
<td>stereos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>radio</td>
<td></td>
<td>radios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consonant + o</td>
<td>mosquito</td>
<td>+ -es</td>
<td>mosquitoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>tomato</td>
<td></td>
<td>tomatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>potato</td>
<td></td>
<td>potatoes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exceptions:** photos, pianos, solos, altos, sopranos, autos, avocados

| f or fe     | leaf           | f + -ves        | leaves       |
|            | calf           | fe + -ves       | calves       |
|            | knife          |                 | 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 ____________
### 4.3 Pronunciation of Plural Nouns

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRONUNCIATION</th>
<th>RULE</th>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>Pronounce /s/ after voiceless sounds: /p, t, k, f, θ/.</td>
<td>lip—lips, cat—cats, rock—rocks, cuff—cuffs, month—months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/z/</td>
<td>Pronounce /z/ after voiced sounds: /b, d, g, v, m, n, η, l, r/ and all vowels.</td>
<td>cab—cabs, lid—lids, bag—bags, stove—stoves, sum—sums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/əz/</td>
<td>Pronounce /əz/ when the base form ends in s, ss, ce, se, sh, ch, ge, and x.</td>
<td>bus—buses, class—classes, place—places, cause—causes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### EXERCISE 3

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

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 ____________
Lesson 4

4.4 Irregular Noun Plurals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>PLURAL</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>man</td>
<td>men</td>
<td>Some nouns have a vowel change in the plural form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>woman</td>
<td>women</td>
<td><strong>Singular:</strong> Do you see that old woman?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tooth</td>
<td>teeth</td>
<td><strong>Plural:</strong> Do you see those young women?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>foot</td>
<td>feet</td>
<td>Some plural forms are the same as the singular form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goose</td>
<td>geese</td>
<td><strong>Singular:</strong> I have one fish in my tank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sheep</td>
<td>sheep</td>
<td><strong>Plural:</strong> She has ten fish in her tank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fish</td>
<td>fish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deer</td>
<td>deer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>child</td>
<td>children</td>
<td>For some plurals, we change to a different form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>person</td>
<td>people</td>
<td><strong>Singular:</strong> She has one child.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mouse</td>
<td>mice</td>
<td><strong>Plural:</strong> They have two children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pajamas</td>
<td>teeth</td>
<td>Some words have no singular form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clothes</td>
<td>feet</td>
<td><strong>Examples:</strong> My pants are new. Do you like them?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pants/slacks</td>
<td>glasses</td>
<td>My glasses are dirty. I can’t see with them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dozen</td>
<td>dozens</td>
<td>Exact numbers use the singular form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hundred</td>
<td>hundreds</td>
<td><strong>Examples:</strong> The U.S. has over 300 million people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thousand</td>
<td>thousands</td>
<td>I need to buy two dozen eggs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>million</td>
<td>millions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dozen</td>
<td>dozens</td>
<td>The plural form of a number is not an exact number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hundred</td>
<td>hundreds</td>
<td><strong>Examples:</strong> Thousands of people live alone.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thousand</td>
<td>thousands</td>
<td>Millions of people live in New York City.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Pronunciation Note:**
You hear the difference between woman (singular) and women (plural) in the first syllable. Listen to your teacher pronounce one woman and two women.

**Language Note:**
The plural of person can also be persons, but people is more common.

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

**EXAMPLE**
man ___________________

1. foot ___________________
2. woman ___________________
3. policeman ___________________
4. child ___________________
5. fish ___________________
6. mouse ___________________
7. sheep ___________________
8. tooth ___________________
EXERCISE 5  Fill in the blanks with the correct plural form of the noun in parentheses ( ).

EXAMPLE  Some ___________ **people** (person) like to live alone.

1. Most ___________ (family) in the U.S. own a house.

2. The U.S. has over 300 million ___________ (person).

3. Americans move many ___________ (time ).

4. Some ___________ (woman) earn more money than their ___________ (husband).

5. ___________ (Home) are very expensive in some ___________ (city).

6. Divorce is very high in some ___________ (country).

7. Some ___________ (child) live with only one parent.

8. How many square ___________ (foot) does your house or apartment have?

9. Some ___________ (kid) live with ___________ (grandparent).

10. The average family has 3.19 ___________ (person).

11. Some apartments have a problem with ___________ (mouse).

12. ___________ (pet) are popular in the U.S.

13. ___________ (dog) are more common than ___________ (cat).

14. ___________ (fish) are interesting to watch.
1. Do you live in a house, an apartment, or a dorm? Do you live alone?

2. Do you like the place where you live? Why or why not?

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

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

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2 Dorm is short for dormitory, a building where students live.
3 Available means ready to use now.
4 A 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Affirmative**
| **Singular** |
| There is a/an/one Singular Subject Location/Time |
| janitor in my building. |
| air conditioner in the bedroom. |
| dryer in the basement. |
| rent increase this year. |
| **Note:** *There’s* is the contraction for *there is*. |
| **Negative**
| **Singular** |
| There isn’t a/an Singular Subject Location/Time |
| back door in my apartment. |
| elevator in the building. |
| **Wrong:** There’s the Eiffel Tower in Paris. |
| **Right:** *The Eiffel Tower is in Paris.* |
| **Affirmative**
| **Plural** |
| There are Plural Word Plural Subject Location/Time |
| several windows in the bedroom. |
| many children in the building. |
| some cats in the hall. |
| two closets on the windows. |
| **Note:** We don’t write a contraction for *there are*. |
| **Negative**
| **Plural** |
| There aren’t any Plural Subject Location/Time |
| shades on the windows. |
| new tenants this month. |
| **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 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.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAMPLES</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Singular Statement</strong></td>
<td><strong>EXPLANATION</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| There is a laundry room in the building. | **Question word order:** Is + *there* + *a/an* + singular noun...?  
**Short answers:**  
Yes, there is.  
No, there isn’t. |
| Is there an elevator in the building? |  |
| **Plural Statement** | **Question word order:** Are + *there* + *(any)* + plural noun...?  
**Short answers:**  
Yes, there are.  
No, there aren’t. |
| There are some children in the building. |  |
| Are there *(any)* children on your floor? |  |
| **Plural Statement** | **How many + plural noun + *are there*...?** |
| There are ten apartments in my building. |  |
| How many apartments are there in your building? |  |
| Thirty. |  |

### EXERCISE

#### 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. nosy 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

1A 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).

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?

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

L: Yes, there is. How many people in your family?

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.

S: That’s good. I have a car. parking spaces?

L: Yes. twenty spaces in the back of the building.

S: How apartments in the building?
L: 30 apartments.  
S: Twenty parking spaces for thirty apartments? Then enough spaces for all the tenants.  
L: Don’t worry. Not everyone has a car. Parking is on a first-come, first-served basis. And plenty of spaces on the street.  
S: a laundry room in the building?  
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.  
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>There’s a janitor in the building.</th>
<th>He’s in the basement.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There’s a little girl in the next apartment.</td>
<td>She’s cute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There’s an empty apartment on the first floor.</td>
<td>It’s available now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are two washing machines.</td>
<td>They’re in the basement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Explanation**

To introduce a new noun, we use *there* + *is/are*. When we use this noun again as the subject of another sentence, we use *he, she, it, or they.*

**Pronunciation Note:** We pronounce *there* and *they’re* exactly the same.

**Spelling Note:** Don’t confuse *there* and *they’re.*

There are dogs in the next apartment.  
They’re very friendly.

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* A first-come, first-served basis means that people who arrive first will get something first (parking spaces, theater tickets, classes at registration etc.).
* Plenty of means “a lot of.”
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.

1. __________ two apartments for rent. _________ not on the same floor.
2. _________ a laundry room in the building. _________ in the basement.
3. The parking spaces are in the back of the building. _________ for the tenants with cars.
4. The parking spaces don’t cost extra. _________ free for the tenants.
5. The apartment is small. _________ on the fourth floor.
6. The building has 30 apartments. _________ a big building.
7. The student wants to see the apartment. _________ on Grover Street.
8. The building is quiet because _________ no kids in the building.
9. How much is the rent? _________ $850 a month.
10. Is the rent high? No, _________ not high.
11. _________ no dogs in the building.
12. _________ a quiet building.

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

May I speak to the landlord?
He lives on the third floor.
The basement is dirty.

We introduce a singular noun with the indefinite articles (a or an). When we refer to this noun again, we use the definite article the.

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

**CONVERSATION 1**

A: Is there _______ cafeteria at this school?

B: Yes, there is.

A: Where’s _______ cafeteria?

B: It’s on _______ first floor.

A: Are there _______ snack machines in _______ cafeteria?

B: Yes, there are.

A: I want to buy _______ sandwich.

B: _______ sandwich machine is out of order today.

**CONVERSATION 2**

A: Is there _______ bookstore for this college?

B: Yes, there is.

A: Where’s _______ bookstore?

B: It’s on Green Street.

A: I need to buy _______ English dictionary.

B: Today’s _______ holiday. _______ bookstore is closed today.
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.

B: What’s a problem?

A: landlord doesn’t provide enough heat. I have to wear sweater or overcoat all the time in the apartment.

B: Why don’t you talk to building manager? Maybe heating system is broken. If he doesn’t solve problem, you can send letter to Department of Housing.

A: That’s good idea. There’s one more problem.

I have neighbor who has small dog.

dog barks all the time when neighbor isn’t home. We share wall, and I can hear dog barking through wall.

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

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

B: Then talk to landlord. Tell him about problem.

A: Do you have problems in your apartment?

B: Of course we have problems. But we have very nice landlady. She lives in building. If there’s problem, I send her e-mail, and she usually takes care of it right away.
4.9 Making Generalizations

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

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

**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) 5. (house)
2. old (person) 6. poor (person)
3. (woman) 7. (car)
4. (man) 8. (doctor)
EXERCISE 18
Add a plural subject to make a generalization.

_________ 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
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?
B: Yes. There are several copy machines in the library.
A: Are copy machines free?
B: No. You need to use a nickel for copy machines.
A: What do you want to copy?
B: I want to copy my classmate’s textbook.
A: The whole thing? Why?
B: Textbooks in the U.S. are too expensive.
A: There’s law against copying an entire book.
B: What’s law?
B: You can’t copy books without permission from the publisher.
A: In my country, we copy books all the time.
B: But it’s illegal. People who copy books, CDs, and movies without permission are called “pirates.”

*A nickel is a five-cent coin.*
1. Singular and Plural

**Regular**
- boy—boys
- box—boxes
- story—stories
- tomato—tomatoes
- wife—wives

**Irregular**
- man—men
- woman—women
- child—children
- foot—feet
- 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.
1. *People* is a plural noun. Use a plural verb form.
   
   *are*
   
   People in my country is very poor.

2. Don’t use *the* with a generalization.
   
   *The dogs are friendly animals.*

3. Don’t confuse *there* with *they’re*.
   
   *They’re I have two brothers. 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*.
   
   *There’s the Golden Gate Bridge 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.
   
   *She has three brothers.*
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.

C

B: It’s a big apartment.

There

(example)

A: It’s big enough for my family. They’re are four bedrooms and two

(example)

bathrooms. Has a large closet in each bedroom. Let me show you my

(1)

kitchen too.

B: Oh. It’s a new dishwasher in your kitchen.

(2)

A: It’s wonderful. You know how I hate to wash dishes.

(3)

B: Is there a microwave oven?

(4)

A: No, there isn’t.

(5)

B: Are any washers and dryers for clothes?

(6)

A: Oh, yes. They’re in the basement. In the laundry room are five

(7)

washers and five dryers. I never have to wait.

B: There are a lot of people in your building?

(9)

A: In my building 30 apartments.

(10)

B: Is a janitor in your building?

(11)

A: Yes. There’s a very good janitor. He keeps the building very clean.

(12)

B: I suppose this apartment costs a lot.

A: Well, yes. The rent is high. But I share the apartment with my cousins.

(13) (14)
Lesson 4 Test/Review

PART 1 Write the plural form for each noun.

- box: boxes
- month: month
- child: children
- card: cards
- match: matches
- desk: desks
- foot: feet
- shelf: shelves
- key: keys
- potato: potatoes
- radio: radios
- story: stories
- woman: women
- mouse: mice
- bush: bushes

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

A: __________ any people from your country in your building?
B: Yes, __________ a few people from my country in my building. __________ very friendly.

A: __________ a laundry room in your building?
B: Yes, __________.

A: Where __________ the laundry room?
B: __________ on the third floor.

A: __________ any lockers in your apartment building?
B: Yes, there are. __________ in the basement.

A: __________ a bicycle room in your building?
B: Yes, there is. __________ in the basement.

A: How many floors __________ in your building?
B: __________ four floors and a basement.

A: __________ an elevator in your building?
B: Yes, __________, but __________ very slow.

I usually walk up the stairs.
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 \(\text{the}\) janitor. He’s impolite.
A: Anything else? Are there \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) other problems?
B: Yes. I want to get \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) dog.
A: So?
B: It’s not permitted. \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) landlord says that \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) dogs make a lot of noise.
A: Can you get \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) cat?
B: Yes, but I don’t like \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) cats.
A: Is your building quiet?
B: No. There are \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) children in \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) building. When I try to study, I can hear \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) children in the next apartment. They watch TV all the time.
A: You need to find \(\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\) apartment in a different building.
B: I think you’re right.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I have:</th>
<th>I don’t have, but I would like to have:</th>
<th>I don’t need:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.

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.

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.

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

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**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.

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