

Key to the Exercises

IN
A COMPREHENSIVE ENGLISH
GRAMMAR

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The Key contains answers to all the Exercises in *A Comprehensive English Grammar*, except (a) the one or two 'discussion' questions, for example those on page 2 or page 432, (b) those which are answered exactly in the pages of *Comprehensive Grammar*. In the case of the latter, reference is made to the pages in *Comprehensive Grammar* where the necessary information may be found.

CHAPTER ONE

THE PARTS OF SPEECH

Exercise I

Page 5

- { The front door is the main entrance to a *house*. (Noun)
 - { The garden tools are *housed* in the shed outside. (Verb)
 - { *Iron* is the most useful metal in engineering. (Noun)
 - { My mother *irons* the clothes after washing them. (Verb)
 - { There was an enormous *crowd* at the football match. (Noun)
 - { During the rush hour too many people *crowd* into the tube trains. (Verb)
 - { Silk or rayon is most commonly used in making *ties*. (Noun)
 - { Most sailors can *tie* many different knots. (Verb)
 - { *Smoke* is the cause of much dirt in big towns. (Noun)
 - { He always *smokes* expensive cigarettes. (Verb)
 - { My sister has just bought another *dress*. (Noun)
 - { He woke late, and washed and *dressed* in a great hurry. (Verb)
 - { *Air* is essential to human life. (Noun)
 - { Those shirts are damp; they must *be aired*. (Verb)
 - { He is too much inclined to *air* his opinions. (Verb)
 - { I was given several *books* as Christmas presents. (Noun)
 - { Have you *booked* seats for the theatre on Saturday? (Verb)
 - { Stone *steps* lead up from our garden to the house. (Noun)
 - { "Will you *step* into my parlour?" said the spider to the fly. (Verb)
- Other examples of this kind of dual-purpose word are: type, swing, box, link, stream, shoe, paper, part, drive, cut, walk, swim, run, ride, move, hurry, rush, crawl, halt, stop.

Page 6 Exercise II. (The stressed syllable is in italics)

{ I strongly *object* to your bringing bicycles into the house.

{ The boys found a mysterious metal *object* on the beach.

{ His colleagues gave him a *present* on his retirement.

{ We intend to *present* him with a clock when he retires.

{ Who holds the world's land speed *record*?

{ This man has a very bad *criminal record*.

{ Please keep a careful *record* of the money you spend.

{ I gave her a gramophone *record* for her birthday.

{ Instead of writing a letter, he decided to *record* his message on tape.

{ He was careful to *record* all expenditure in an account book.

{ The shop sells milk, butter, eggs and *other farm produce*.

{ The new factory will *produce* 500 car engines a week.

{ During the ten years he has worked for us, his *conduct* has been exemplary.

{ The Government has appointed an ex-judge to *conduct* the inquiry.

{ A good orchestra leader should be prepared to *conduct* in an emergency.

{ The *conflict* between the two main political parties was very bitter.

{ The views of the two parties *conflict* on many important matters.

{ The dry interior of the country is a sandy *desert*.

{ It is despicable to *desert* your friends when they need your help.

{ At Wimbledon you can see fierce *contests* between tennis champions.

{ The opposition decided not to *contest* the Government bill.

{ You will not be able to enter the camp without a written *permit*.

{ They allowed him to enter, but would not *permit* him to take photographs.

Other examples of words which are nouns or verbs according to the syllable stressed are: protest, accent, refuse, attribute, ferment. They are nouns when the stress is on the first syllable.

Exercise III

1, she, herself. 2. someone (somebody). 3. he, him. 4. it (which).

Exercise IVa

1. long. 2. great, unable, narrow, strong (swift, rapid). 3. high (great). 4. lazy, warm. 5. shut (closed), open.

Exercise IVb

1. already, steeply (sharply). 2. yet, fully. 3. wrongly, afterwards. 4. usually (generally), sometimes (occasionally). 5. ever, often.

Exercise V

1. Adjective, Adverb. 2. Adverb, Adjective, Adverb, Adjective, Adjective, Adverb, Adjective, Adverb, Adverb, Adjective. 3. Adverb, Adverb, Adjective, Adverb.

Exercise VI

Page 7

- { *August* is the busiest holiday month. (Noun) (month of the year)
- { The Emperor's *august* presence deeply impressed the crowd. (Adjective) (noble, dignified)
- { Parking is allowed here on *alternate* days of the week. (Adjective)
- { The teacher *alternated* grammar every other day with conversation lessons. (did them by turns, changing from one to the other)
- { A grain of sand is a *minute* particle of rock. (Adjective) (extremely small)
- { There are sixty *minutes* in an hour. (Noun) (division of time)
- { The *invalid* was given every attention by the nurses. (Noun) (a sick person)
- { That agreement is *invalid* without your signature (Adjective) (without legal force)
- { On Christmas Day we drink the toast "*Absent* friends". (Adjective) (not present)
- { You must not *absent* yourself from classes without permission. (Verb) (stay away)
- { Trains on the London Underground are very *frequent*. (Adjective) (numerous)
- { Railwaymen *frequent* that café opposite the station. (Verb) (go often to)

Exercise VII

was (*state*); hurried (*action*); said (*action*); did not seem (*state*); glanced (*action*); got . . . worried (*state*); rushed (*action*); doubted (*state*); would . . . become (*state*); had been reprimanded (*action*).

Exercise VIII

PREPOSITIONS: to, at, of, for. CONJUNCTIONS: and, whether, for.

Exercise IX

(a) Alas! (b) Well! (c) Oh! (d) Look out! (e) There!

Exercise X

NOUNS	ADJECTIVES	ADVERBS	VERBS	PRONOUNS	CONJUNCTIONS	PREPOSITIONS
tour way(s)	a ¹ better	not merely there	must be imagined	it some	that as	of in
country	worse the ¹	quite		us none he	or	from
landscape spite dilettantes	many good	as more	would have (us) fancy	who	and than	on
train brother- hood quest picturesque	vivid canting railway accessory	indeed	is are does (not) voyage begins	which	but	with at
humours hope spirit march morning peace repletion evening rest	certain jolly spiritual					

¹ *a* and *the* are the indefinite and the definite articles. *Walking* and *seeing* are gerunds.

Exercise XI

- sound*
 - Noun = what can be heard.
 - Adjective = healthy, reliable.
I love to hear the *sound* of the sea. (Noun)
One or two apples had gone bad, but most of them were *sound*. (Adjective)
- oil*
 - Noun = fatty liquid.
 - Verb = to lubricate.
The *oil* in this engine will have to be changed soon. (Noun)
He *oiled* the lock to stop it from squeaking. (Verb)
- master*
 - Noun = person in control, a great artist.
 - Verb = control, overcome, become good at.
The captain of a merchant ship is usually called its *Master*. (Noun)
Giotto was one of the greatest *masters* of the Florentine school of painting. (Noun)
You should not find the principles of English Grammar difficult to *master*. (Verb)

4. *clear* 1. Adjective=easy to understand, easy to see through.
2. Verb=get rid of something unwanted.
Is that explanation quite *clear*? (Adjective)
The gardener *is clearing* away the dead leaves from the lawn. (Verb)
5. *speed* 1. Noun=rapidity, rate.
2. Verb=to go very quickly.
The job was finished with great *speed*. (Noun)
He *was speeding* along the road at 80 miles an hour. (Verb)
6. *water* 1. Noun=H₂O.
2. Verb=to moisten crops with water.
Will you give me a glass of *water*, please? (Noun)
He *is watering* the roses in the garden. (Verb)
7. *deal* 1. Noun=a quantity or portion; a business transaction or bargain; planks of fir or pine wood.
2. Verb=to buy regularly from; to share out playing cards for a game; to attend to.
He has spent a great *deal* of money on his garden. (Noun)
The two firms have concluded an important *deal*. (Noun)
The doors were made of *deal*. (Noun)
Which grocer do you generally *deal* with? (Verb)
It is your turn to *deal* the cards. (Verb)
That job will have to wait; I can't *deal* with it now. (Verb)
8. *butter* 1. Noun=food made by churning cream.
2. Verb=to spread butter on bread.
He *battered* his bread thickly with rich, creamy *butter*.
9. *ring* 1. Noun=circular band of gold, etc., worn on the finger.
2. Verb=to cause a bell to sound.
In England a married woman wears a wedding *ring* on the third finger of her left hand.
The wedding bells *are ringing*.
10. *police* 1. Noun=body of men responsible for keeping public order.
2. Verb=to preserve public order and enforce the law.
The *police* had a difficult task controlling the enthusiastic crowd.
A small United Nations force will *police* the frontier.

CHAPTER TWO

THE SIMPLE SENTENCE

Page 16 Exercise I. See page 8

Exercise II

	SUBJECT	PREDICATE	
		<i>Verb</i>	<i>Object</i>
1.	The bird	built	a nest
2.	The gardener	mowed	the lawn
3.	The rain	has stopped	
4.	The sun	is shining	
5.	The grass	is growing	
6.	The flowers	are opening	their petals
7.	(You)	Open	the door
8.	Who	broke	the window?
9.	The dog	barked	
10.	Which boy	brought	that dog?

Exercise III. See pages 13-14

Exercise IV

1. is not (isn't) here. 2. cannot (can't) swim very well. 3. are not (aren't) singing. 4. will not (won't) help. 5. does not (doesn't) come. 6. do not (don't) go. 7. did not (didn't) walk. 8. does not (doesn't) write. 9. did not (didn't) write. 10. does not (doesn't) bake. 11. do not (don't) bake a cake. 12. are not (aren't) baking. 13. does not (doesn't) chase. 14. do not (don't) chase. 15. is not (isn't) chasing. 16. are not (aren't) chasing. 17. does not (doesn't) sell. 18. has not (hasn't); does not (doesn't) have. 19. does not (doesn't) speak. 20. cannot (can't) speak. 21. is not (isn't) speaking. 22. did not (didn't) ride. 23. did not (didn't) forgive. 24. did not (didn't) choose. 25. did not (didn't) freeze. 26. did not (didn't) find. 27. did not (didn't) grow. 28. did not (didn't) dig up. 29. did not (didn't) hang. 30. did not (didn't) ring. 31. did not (didn't) wake. 32. did not (didn't) rise. 33. did not (didn't) get out. 34. did not (didn't) run. 35. did not (didn't) see. 36. did not (didn't) sell. 37. did not (didn't) lay. 38. did not (didn't) eat. 39. did not (didn't) shake. 40. does not (doesn't) try. 41. is not (isn't) trying. 42. do not (don't) try. 43. were not (weren't) trying. 44. does not (doesn't) live.

45. is not (isn't) living. 46. was not (wasn't) living. 47. do not (don't) cycle. 48. did not (didn't) go. 49. did not (didn't) sing. 50. did not (didn't) sit. 51. did not (didn't) speak. 52. did not (didn't) spring. 53. Not every boy stood. 54. did not (didn't) tear. 55. did not (didn't) shine. 56. did not (didn't) tell. 57. did not (didn't) teach. 58. did not (didn't) understand. 59. did not (didn't) sink. 60. did not (didn't) swim. 61. did not (didn't) go. 62. did not (didn't) steal.

Exercise V. See pages 14-15

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Exercise VI

1. Is John here? 2. Can S. swim very well? 3. Are the birds singing this morning? 4. Will H. help me with my work? 5. Does M. come home every week-end? 6. Do they go to S. every year? 7. Did he walk to school this morning? 8. Does R. write to M. regularly? 9. Did he write to her this week? 10. Does Mary bake a cake? 11. Are M. and S. baking a cake? 12. Do M. and S. bake a cake? 13. Does the dog chase rabbits? 14. Do the dogs chase rabbits? 15. Is the dog chasing a rabbit? 16. Are the dogs chasing a rabbit? 17. Does that shopkeeper sell good cakes? 18. Has that shopkeeper good cakes? 19. Does M. speak E. well? 20. Can M. speak E. well? 21. Is M. speaking E. now? 22. Did we ride to school. . . ? 23. Did R. forgive. . . ? 24. Did I choose. . . ? 25. Did the water freeze . . . ? 26. Did he find . . . ? 27. Did my roses grow . . . ? 28. Did the gardener dig . . . ? 29. Did Mr. B hang . . . ? 30. Did the boy ring . . . ? 31. Did I wake . . . ? 32. Did I rise . . . ? 33. Did I get . . . ? 34. Did the boy run . . . ? 35. Did John see . . . ? 36. Did that baker sell . . . ? 37. Did the hen lay . . . ? 38. Did M. eat . . . ? 39. Did you shake . . . ? 40. Does H. try . . . ? 41. Is H. trying . . . ? 42. Are the boys trying . . . ? 43. Were the boys trying . . . ? 44. Does Mr. S. live . . . ? 45. Is Mr. S. living . . . ? 46. Was Mr. S. living . . . ? 47. Do I cycle . . . ? 48. Did he go . . . ? 49. Did the children sing . . . ? 50. Did we sit . . . ? 51. Did T. speak . . . ? 52. Did the cat spring . . . ? 53. Did every boy stand . . . ? 54. Did H. tear . . . ? 55. Did the sun shine . . . ? 56. Did he tell . . . ? 57. Did the teacher teach . . . ? 58. Did the class understand . . . ? 59. Did the ship sink . . . ? 60. Did R. swim . . . ? 61. Did the boys go . . . ? 62. Did the thieves steal . . . ?

Exercise VII

1. Are you German? 2. Has he learnt to swim? 3. Are you staying in England for very long? 4. Do you often visit London? 5. Have you ever met Mr. Eckersley? 6. Do you think Olaf speaks English well? 7. Did you go to France last year? 8. Have you seen Gloria lately? 9. Did she tell you her plans? 10. Why are you wearing two pullovers? (Other answers are, of course, possible.)

Exercise VIII

	SUBJECT		PREDICATE			
	SUBJECT WORD	ENLARGEMENT OF SUBJECT	VERB	ENLARGEMENT OF VERB	OBJECT WORD	ENLARGEMENT OF OBJECT
1.	Daffodils	bright yellow	can be seen	in the gardens (<i>Place</i>) in spring (<i>Time</i>)		
2.	spectators	a hundred thousand	saw	at Wembley (<i>Place</i>) last Saturday (<i>Time</i>)	football match	a most exciting
3.	students	all the in my class	are working	hard (<i>Manner</i>) this year (<i>Time</i>) in order . . . examination (<i>Reason</i>)		

Page 18 Exercise IX

1. a sailor. 2. soft. 3. clean and tidy. 4. sour. 5. true. 6. easy; difficult. 7. as white as a sheet. 8. stupid. 9. weaker. 10. thin. 11. President. 12. a thief. 13. neat. 14. captain of the team. 15. free.

The Complements in Sentences 1-10 are Subjective; in Sentences 11-15 they are Objective.

CHAPTER THREE

NOUNS: (1) KINDS

Page 23 Exercise I

NOT COMMON NOUNS: peace, Sherlock Holmes, flock, Rubens, patience, beauty, Bodmin, rivalry, meeting, noisiness, Hyde Park, crowd.

ABSTRACT NOUNS: peace, patience, beauty, rivalry, noisiness.

COLLECTIVE NOUNS: flock, meeting, crowd.

Exercise II

PROPER NOUNS: John, Covent Garden, Tosca, Puccini, Derby, Crepello.

COMMON NOUNS: theatre, opera, price, tickets, money, lot.

ABSTRACT NOUNS: luck.

Exercise III

COUNTABLES: dog, spoon, fish (*sometimes an uncountable*), board, party, tree, nuisance.

UNCOUNTABLES: meat, thunder, cheese (*sometimes a countable*).

Exercise IV

pride, beauty, parentage (parenthood), likelihood, cowardice, treachery, infancy, sanity, courtesy, youth.

Exercise V

(a) 1. pride. 2. flock. 3. crowd. 4. pack. 5. herd. 6. shoal (school). 7. congregation. 8. audience. 9. crew.

(b) constellation (galaxy); yoke; pack; band; clump (group); mob; pack; fleet; collection; library; flight (squadron, group).

Exercise VI

patience, treachery, avarice, hypocrisy, false humility, strength, cruelty, exaggeration, subtlety.

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Exercise VII

(a) quietness (abstract noun; all the others common nouns); (b) men (common noun plural; others collective nouns); (c) river (common noun; others proper nouns); (d) humorist (common noun; others abstract nouns).

Exercise VIII

COMMON NOUNS: début, stage, murders, way, respect, effect, connoisseur, line.

PROPER NOUNS: Mr. Williams, Ratcliff Highway.

ABSTRACT NOUNS: length, reputation, taste.

Exercise IX

church, state, tweed, ulster, Twelfth Night, China, Indian, Paris.

Exercise X

1. Council 2. navy, fleet, squadron, flotilla. 3. pack. 4. family. 5. team.

Exercise XI

1. greatness. 2. success. 3. destruction. 4. profundity. 5. repulsion. 6. knowledge. 7. gentleness, gentility. 8. sociability, socialism. 9. generosity. 10. liberalism, liberality.

Exercise XII

- sorrow; *uncountable*, emotion of grief.
countable, a painful experience suffered during life.
- beauty; *uncountable*, that which gives pleasure to the mind and especially to the eye.
countable, thing or person that is beautiful, e.g. the *beauties* of nature.
- wine; *uncountable*, fermented juice of grapes made to be drunk.
countable, one variety produced by a country, e.g. I prefer French *wines* to Italian.
- tea; *uncountable*, dried leaves of the tea plant; drink made from these dried leaves.
countable, light meals in the afternoon at which tea is drunk, e.g. That restaurant serves several hundred *teas* every day.
- brick; *uncountable*, type of building material, e.g. The house is built of *brick* (i.e. not of wood or stone).
countable, one unit of such material, e.g. The lorry was carrying a load of *bricks*.
- pain; *uncountable*, suffering of mind or body.
countable, specific instance, e.g. 'I have a *pain* in my leg'.
- wood; *uncountable*, hard substance of a tree, e.g. cedarwood.
countable, one type, e.g. There are many *woods* in that region.
- paint; *uncountable*=colouring material, e.g. The *paint* on the door is not yet dry.
countable, tubes or cakes of colouring material, e.g. I gave my little niece a box of *paints* for her birthday.
- timber; *uncountable*, wood prepared for building.
countable (*plural* = planks, beams): The ship's *timbers* were pierced by the rocks.
- food; *uncountable*=nourishing material eaten or drunk.
countable=a type of such material, e.g. breakfast *foods*.

Page 25 Exercise XIII

1. *paper* knife. 2. *wineglass*. 3. (*safety*)-razor blade. 4. *match*-box.
5. *writing*-desk. 6. *Edinburgh* newspaper. 7. *corkscrew*. 8. *nail*-scissors.
9. *London taxi*-driver. 10. *lawn*-mower. 11. *money*-lender. 12. *cotton* mill.
13. *washing*-machine. 14. *goldfish*. 15. *coal*-miner. 16. *brick* wall.
17. *bricklayer*. 18. *dining*-room. 19. *bedroom*. 20. *bed-sitting*-room.

Exercise XIV

1. **PLAYING-CARD**. Card used in playing certain games, e.g. I found a playing-card on the floor after your rubber of bridge.

- CARD PLAYING. The habit of playing such games, e.g. He spends far too much time in card playing.
2. GRAMMAR SCHOOL. A higher-grade school in Britain, e.g. Many grammar schools were established in the sixteenth century.
SCHOOL GRAMMAR. A textbook of grammar intended for use in schools, e.g. Longmans publish several good school grammars.
3. FLOWER GARDEN. Garden used only for growing flowers, e.g. There is a flower garden in front of the palace.
GARDEN FLOWER. Flower grown in a garden and not wild, e.g. This garden flower is larger than its wild prototype.
4. EYEGLASS. A monocle or a lens for the eye in a telescope, e.g. It is difficult to keep an eyeglass in position.
GLASS EYE. Artificial eye made of glass, e.g. He has a glass eye to replace the one he lost in the war.
5. VILLAGE GREEN. Area covered by grass in the middle of a village, e.g. Good cricket is often to be seen on the village green.
GREEN VILLAGE. A village nestling in trees could be described as a green village.
6. HOUSE DOG. A dog trained to guard the house and to behave well in the house, e.g. Boxer is a good house dog because he always barks at strangers.
DOG-HOUSE. A kennel could be described as a dog-house.
7. BICYCLE PEDAL. The part of the bicycle pushed by the rider's foot, e.g. My bicycle pedal has broken.
PEDAL BICYCLE. A bicycle propelled by the rider and not by a motor, e.g. I have only an ordinary pedal bicycle, not a motor one.
8. POCKET-BOOK. A book for carrying in the pocket for notes, etc., e.g. He pulled out a pocket-book and wrote down the address.
BOOK-POCKET. A pocket specially made to carry books, e.g. The professor asked the tailor to put two book-pockets in his overcoat.
9. OIL-LAMP. A lamp which burns oil, e.g. The only lighting in the cottage was by oil-lamps.
LAMP OIL. The oil burnt in an oil lamp, e.g. We need another gallon of lamp oil.
10. BUS-STATION. Centre to and from which the buses run.
STATION BUS. A bus running to the railway-station, e.g. The station bus has just arrived at the bus-station.
11. TOBACCO-PIPE. A pipe for smoking tobacco.
PIPE TOBACCO. Tobacco specially prepared to smoke in a pipe.
12. LAWN-TENNIS. The usual modern kind of tennis played on a lawn or hard court and not in a special building.
TENNIS LAWN. A lawn on which this form of tennis can be played.

CHAPTER FOUR

NOUNS: (2) NUMBER

Page 34 Exercise I

1. Witches used to be burnt. 2. Matches are taken from boxes or torn from books. 3. The leaves which the birds were carrying fell on to the roofs of the houses. 4. The monkeys jumped from rock to rock up above, watching the movements of the men in the valleys below. 5. The defeated armies had not even time to bury the bodies of their heroes. 6. The chiefs of the tribes had their own means of catching salmon. 7. The cheeses could not be sold, as mice had left tooth-marks on them. 8. Which are the greater curse in the Middle East, flies or lice? 9. While the negroes were voicing their beliefs, the mulattos kept banging on the floor with their staves (staffs). 10. These crises came in long series.

Exercise II

negroes, wishes, studios, dailies, convoys, reefs, wharfs (wharves), dormice, echoes, inches, mongooses, dwarfs, calves, boughs, foxes, yoke.

Page 35 Exercise III

(a) two hundred and fifty. (b) two thousand three hundred. (c) three million, four hundred and thirty thousand, six hundred and fifty-four. (d) one hundred and forty-four; one gross; twelve dozen. (e) one hundred and fifty hundredweight.

Exercise IV

bacilli, axes [ˈæksɪz], radii, hypotheses, crises [ˈkraɪsɪz], oases [ouˈeɪsɪz], phenomena, fungi (funguses), cacti (cactuses).

Exercise V

WORD IN SINGULAR	MEANING	WORD IN PLURAL	MEANING
air	1. air we breathe 2. a tune	airs	to give oneself airs = to appear conceited
premise	starting point in reasoning	premises	(a) plural of <i>premise</i> (b) house or building

Exercise V (continued)

WORD IN SINGULAR	MEANING	WORD IN PLURAL	MEANING
brace	(a) collective = two (b) something giving support (c) tool for making holes	braces	straps to support trousers ¹
compass	instrument indicating the north	compasses (a pair of)	instrument for making circles
fruit	edible product of tree, bush or plant	fruits	reward; result of a process, e.g. 'the fruits of one's work'; types of fruit
spectacle	public show; display	spectacles	aids to vision
damage	harm or injury done to property	damages	money paid for loss or injury
wit	entertaining intellectual quickness and sparkle; a person having this quality	wits	senses
pain	suffering	pains	effort, trouble taken
powder	solid matter in form of dust	powders	medicines in powder form
colour	e.g. red, yellow	colours	(a) award in sport (b) flag of ship or regiment
body	(a) material part of man (b) group of people	bodies	(a) groups of people (b) sun, moon, stars, 'heavenly bodies'
spirit	(a) immaterial being (b) courage	spirits	(a) immaterial beings (b) strong alcoholic drinks (c) mood, e.g. 'in high spirits'

¹The Americans call braces 'suspenders'; the English 'suspenders' = American 'garters'.

Exercise VI. See page 28

Page 39 Exercise I

1. was. 2. itself. 3. are, they, seem. 4. were. 5. is. 6. its.

Page 40 Exercise II

onlookers, lookers-on, tiger-lilies, women teachers, moth-balls, major-generals, mesdames, menservants, manholes, men-at-arms.

Exercise III. Correct forms:

1. knowledge. 2. information, advice. 3. is. 4. delete an. 5. delete an. 6. pair of trousers. 7. My pyjamas are . . .

Explanation:

1. *Knowledge* is uncountable. 2. *Information* and *advice* are uncountable and so have no plural. 3. *News* is always plural in form but with singular verb. 4. *Information* is uncountable, therefore not used with indefinite article. 5. *Advice* has no plural. 6. and 7. 'Trousers' and 'pyjamas' always plural; so not 'one trouser' or 'pyjama'.

Exercise IV

He is always in good *spirits*. He drinks *spirits* in preference to wines.

There are 26 *letters* in the English alphabet. Did you remember to post my *letters*?

Many old *customs* survive in that country. He got through the *customs* without paying any duty.

He had to spend two years in the *forces*. The flight of a bullet is affected by the *forces* of wind and gravity

Grounds are the undrinkable part of coffee. Have you any *grounds* for complaint?

Minutes pass very slowly when one is waiting for the train. The secretary keeps the *minutes* of the Committee meetings.

Exercise V

gentlemen, ladies-in-waiting, stepsons, watchmen, trade-unions.

Exercise VI

1. Messrs. Smith; the two Mr. Smiths. Mr. John (Smith) and Mr. Henry Smith. 2. the Misses Jones; the two Miss Joneses. 3. Mesdames Smith; the two Mrs. Smith; Mrs. John Smith and Mrs. Henry Smith.

Exercise VII

1. (a) billiard-table, (b) card-table. 2. trouser-leg. 3. bowling-green. 4. draughtboard. 5. scales.

Exercise VIII

1. are. 2. are. 3. is. 4. was. 5. is.

Exercise IX

WORD	SINGULAR MEANING	PLURAL FORM	PLURAL MEANING
salt	sodium chloride (NaCl), used to give flavour to food	salts	a form of medicine especially as aperient
alms	(none)	alms	money, etc., given to the poor
paper	(a) material for writing on (b) the newspaper	papers	(a) documents, e.g. of identity (b) newspapers, in plural
quarter	a fourth part	quarters	living accommodation
spectacle draught	public show; display cold current of air in a room, etc.	spectacles draughts	aids to vision (a) as for singular (b) an indoor game played with flat round pieces on a checkerboard (c) pieces used in playing the game
effect return	result, consequence (a) coming back (b) yield on money	effects returns	property of someone statements submitted for official purposes
manner	way of doing something; a person's general demeanour	manners	good (or bad) social behaviour
glass	(a) transparent material (b) drinking vessel made of glass	glasses	(a) spectacles, binoculars (b) as for singular
work	bodily or mental effort	works	(a) factory (b) products of mind of, e.g. an artist or writer
pain	suffering of mind or body	pains	(a) trouble or effort, e.g. to take pains (b) as for singular