

Making Sense of English Grammar Exercises

Jake Allsop

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藏书章



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Introduction

Exercises can be mechanical like, say, jogging; you may get fitter, but you can hardly say that you have had a good time.

Exercises can make you think, like, say, logic puzzles: you may enjoy yourself but you won't be any more intelligent afterwards.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a book of exercises which made you think, which were fun to do *and* which made you fitter, ie, better at English? That is what I have tried to provide.

The main chapters correspond to the chapters of *Making Sense of English Grammar* and contain over 50 short grammar summaries (marked with the symbol ▷) which come before each group of exercises. If you want fuller explanations, go to *Cassell's Students' English Grammar*. In most exercises you have to choose and manipulate English structures, so that you will understand and use them better. Several units have an exercise in which you are asked to see the difference between pairs of similar sentences.

This book will help you while you are spending time in the shallow end of the swimming pool. When you are ready to go swimming in the deeper water, try my more advanced book, *Cassell's Students' English Grammar Exercises*: it too has exercises to make you think, give you fun and – which is the main objective – make you fitter.

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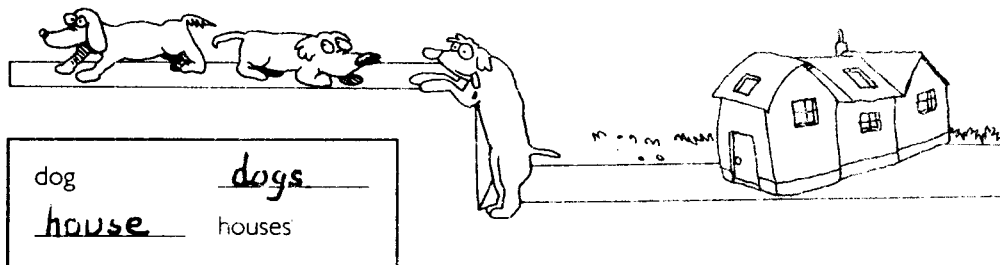
I Nouns



Nouns add -s or -es to form the plural: *dog – dogs, watch – watches*. Sometimes there is a spelling change: *wife – wives*. There are some special cases: *man – men*. Words ending in -s/-es are not always plural: *Mathematics is an easy subject*.

I

Fill in the blanks with the correct singular or plural:



- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|-------|
| 1 _____ | leaves | 9 holiday | _____ |
| 2 half | _____ | 10 _____ | teeth |
| 3 _____ | women | 11 _____ | boxes |
| 4 _____ | geese | 12 thief | _____ |
| 5 deer | _____ | 13 _____ | toes |
| 6 kilo | _____ | 14 book | _____ |
| 7 _____ | buses | 15 _____ | flies |
| 8 country | _____ | 16 coach | _____ |

2

Fill in the blanks with the correct part of the verb:

Your dinner is on the table. (be)

- 1 The furniture we bought _____ not very expensive. (be)
- 2 The Chinese _____ very hardworking. (be)
- 3 _____ the red luggage belong to you? (do)
- 4 Your hair _____ very nice. (look)
- 5 _____ physics a difficult subject? (be)
- 6 The police _____ arrested several suspects. (have)
- 7 Your trousers _____ pressing. (need)

2-3 Nouns

8 Money _____ the world go round. (make)

9 I don't like people who _____ lies. (tell)

10 'No news _____ good news.' (be)

3 Change the underlined words for the words in brackets and make any other changes necessary:

There's a man in the garden. (two)

There are two men in the garden.

1 I need one tomato and half a potato. (two/three)

2 Knives are used to cut things. (is)

3 Is that your baby? (those)

4 Let's make a bookshelf. (some)

5 My tooth hurts: please take it out. (them)

6 This woman is a housewife. (are)

7 These are my grandchildren. (is)

8 Here is a photo of my daughter. (some)

9 There was a sheep in the garden. (were)

10 These shoes are too tight for my feet. (This/foot)



Sometimes there is a different word for male and female: *brother* – *sister*. Usually the same word is used for male and female: *doctor*. Other words may tell you whether the person is male or female: 'Is she a doctor?'

4 Fill in the blanks:

brother	<u>sister</u>
<u>father</u>	mother

- 1 nephew _____
- 2 _____ aunt
- 3 actor _____
- 4 _____ wife
- 5 grandson _____
- 6 _____ lady
- 7 _____ widow
- 8 policeman _____

- 9 _____ princess
- 10 master _____
- 11 hero _____
- 12 boyfriend _____
- 13 _____ bride
- 14 waiter _____
- 15 bull _____
- 16 _____ queen

5 Decide if the underlined item is male, female or not known, and put a cross in the right column:

	Male	Female	Don't know
Is she a <u>doctor</u> ?		X	
Is he a <u>nurse</u> ?	X		
The <u>doctor</u> is busy.			X
1 The <u>doctor</u> has left his car outside.			
2 John's <u>driver</u> stayed at home because her mother was ill.			
3 Is your <u>cousin</u> really an engineer?			
4 The <u>boss</u> told her secretary to leave.			
5 They left their <u>children</u> at home while they went shopping.			
6 My niece is an art <u>teacher</u> .			
7 The boss told his <u>secretary</u> to leave.			
8 My <u>dog</u> 's got no nose. How does he smell?			
9 The <u>students</u> in this class work very hard.			
10 My cousin Mary is married to an <u>accountant</u> .			

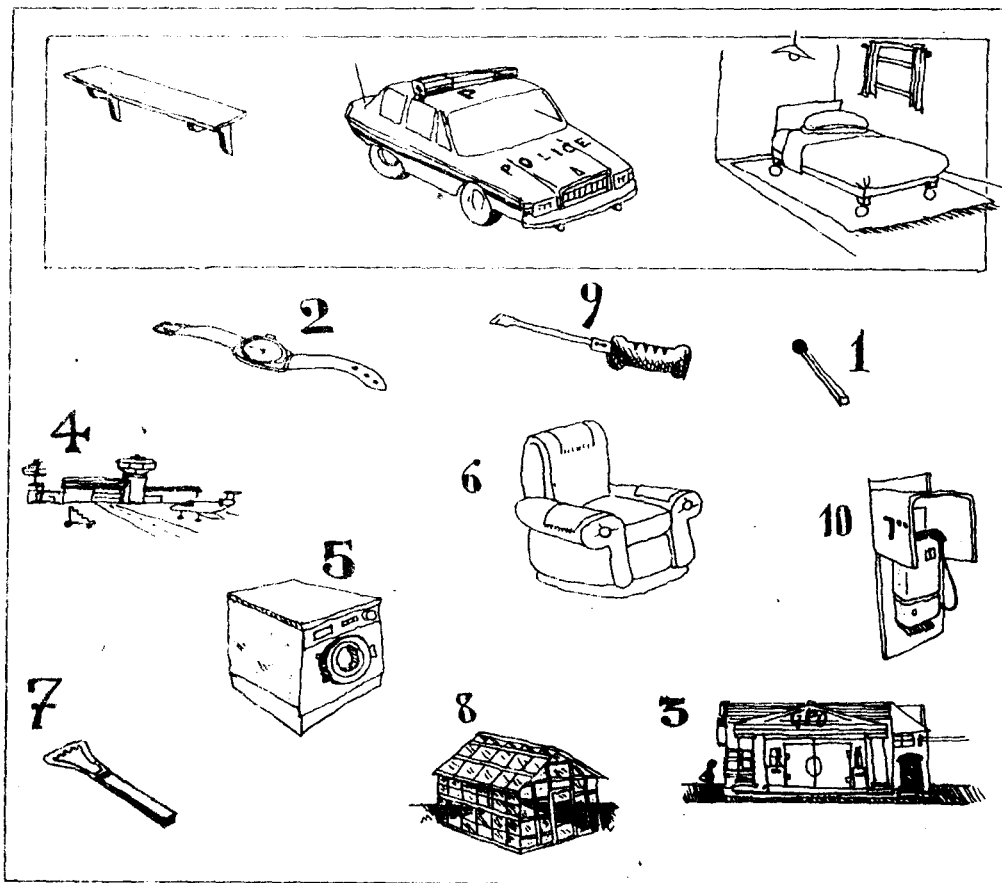
6 Nouns



The first part of a compound noun tells you something about the second part: a *bookshelf* is a *shelf* where you keep *books*.

6 Complete the compound nouns from the list below:

Nouns: machine, watch, stick, booth, port, opener, driver, house, chair, office



book shelf police car bed room

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 match _____ | 6 arm _____ |
| 2 wrist _____ | 7 bottle _____ |
| 3 post _____ | 8 green _____ |
| 4 air _____ | 9 screw _____ |
| 5 washing _____ | 10 telephone _____ |



Use the possessive form -'s and -s' for people, animals, countries, and some expressions of place and time.

7 Change the sentences below as shown:

A holiday which lasts a week is a week's holiday.

- 1 The wages for three weeks are _____
- 2 The problems which we had yesterday are _____
- 3 A time three years from now is in _____ time.
- 4 A few minutes from now is in _____ time.

Russia has an army. It is Russia's army.

- 5 These books belong to John. They are _____
- 6 The children sleep in this room. It is _____
- 7 The Smiths live here. This is _____ house.
- 8 Mr Jones is my boss. I am _____ secretary.
- 9 This room is for men only. It is _____
- 10 This study is for the girls. It is _____

A butcher sells meat. We buy meat at the butcher's.

- 11 A greengrocer sells vegetables. We buy vegetables _____
- 12 An optician tests eyes. I got my eyes tested _____
- 13 A dentist looks after teeth. I must go _____
- 14 A chemist sells medicine. We buy medicine _____
- 15 Where do you buy bread? _____

2 Determiners I

a/an and the; this/these and that/those



a is used before a consonant sound; an is used before a vowel sound.



Fill in the blanks with a suitable determiner:

Give me a coke and an ice cream.

1 I'm wearing ___ yellow shirt and ___ orange tie.

2 ___ honest man is ___ happy man.

3 This is ___ easy exercise.

4 Is there ___ university in your town?

5 He is paid ___ pound ___ hour for his work.

6 ___ hammer is ___ useful tool.

7 '___ apple ___ day keeps the doctor away.'



the is left out before plural nouns and mass nouns in general statements:

eg *Dogs make good pets; Sugar is bad for you;*

and in many fixed expressions:

eg *take place, by train, at school.*

2

Fill in the blanks with a suitable determiner if needed:

Chinese food is the best food in the world.

1 Which ___ animals make ___ best pets, ___ cats or ___ dogs?

2 How do you like ___ your coffee?

3 With ___ cream and ___ brown sugar.

4 Is ___ bullfighting ___ most popular sport in ___ Spain?

5 It is popular, especially with ___ tourists, but ___ sport that ___ most Spaniards enjoy is ___ football.

6 On ___ Saturdays, we usually have ___ dinner early and then go to ___ cinema.

7 ___ my wife and I go to ___ church on ___ Sunday morning, except when ___ children are on ___ holiday.

8 Do you go to ___ school on ___ foot?

9 No, we usually go on ____ bus.

10 'How do you start this car?'

'Put ____ key in ____ ignition, and turn it. Put ____ your foot on ____ accelerator, and, as long as there is ____ petrol in ____ tank, it should start.'

3 Put in *a/an* or *the* where necessary:

I'm very thirsty. May I have a glass of ____ water?

1 This is ____ picture of ____ house where I lived when I was ____ child.

2 ____ French people shake ____ hands more often than ____ English do.

3 Let me give you ____ piece of ____ advice.

4 Do you know ____ difference between ____ Great Britain and ____ United Kingdom?

5 I know that ____ Britain is not ____ same thing as ____ British Isles.

6 ____ trouble with ____ old furniture is that it is too big for ____ modern houses.

7 ____ Earth goes round ____ Sun.

8 'Have you got ____ library in your school?' 'Yes, and ____ teacher in ____ charge of it says that most of ____ books are out of ____ date.'

9 '____ best things in ____ life are free.'



Remember: many fixed expressions miss out the article, eg *shake hands*.

4 Put these nouns into the sentences:

Nouns: attention, ~~breakfast~~, care, cold, friends, fun, jobs, place, time.

What time do you usually have breakfast?

1 What time does the meeting take _____

2 We soon made _____ with our neighbours.

3 I know I'm silly, but please don't make _____ of me.

4 Will you take _____ of my dog while I'm away?

5 Put a warm coat on, or you might catch _____

6 Please pay _____ to what I have to say.

7 I hope we'll have _____ to visit you when we are in Zurich.

8 I don't like working here: I'm thinking of changing _____

What is meaning of word 'nice'?

What is the meaning of the word 'nice'?

John is very good friend of mine. He is bus driver and his wife is waitress. They live in small house in centre of village. House has two bedrooms and small garden at back. They have two children, younger is boy, older is girl. Because house is so small, children have to share bedroom, but this is not problem because they are still very young. They go to same school. Because it is not far from house where they live, they usually go to school on foot except when weather is very bad. Then they take bus.



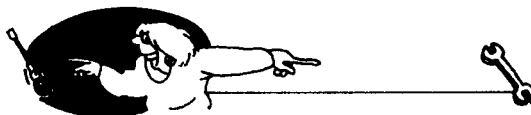
Use *this*, plural *these*, for things near you in space or time.
Use *that*, plural *those*, for things not near you in space or time.

6 Write sentences to fit these pictures:



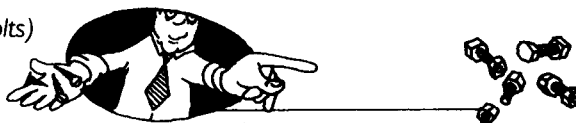
This is a hammer, and those are nails.

1 (screwdriver/spanner)



_____ is a screwdriver, and _____ is a spanner.

2 (screws/nuts and bolts)



_____ are screws, and _____ are nuts and bolts.

3 (cat/mice)



_____ is a cat, and _____ are mice.

4 (cakes/loaf of bread)



_____ are cakes, and _____ is a loaf of bread.

5 (typewriter/computer)



_____ is a typewriter, and _____ is a computer.

3 Determiners II

some/any/a lot of/plenty of; much/many/a little/a few/no/ none

- ▷ These are words which describe quantity. *some* is used in statements and 'inviting' questions like 'Do you want some more tea?'
any is used in negatives and in real questions, eg *I don't want any*; *Do you have any money on you?*

The same is true for compounds like *something*, *anybody*, etc.

no means the same as *not* . . . *any*, eg *I have no money* = *I haven't any money*.

Use *none* and compounds in short answers, eg *What are you doing?* *Nothing*.

- 1 Fill in the blanks with a suitable determiner:

I want some bread, but I don't need any cakes.

- 1 There's _____ brown bread left but we haven't got _____ more white.
- 2 Have you got _____ luggage with you?
- 3 Can't you do _____ thing right?
- 4 Would you like _____ more tea, Vicar?
- 5 She never seems to have _____ money.
- 6 'Who were you talking to?' '_____ body!'
- 7 Did you tell _____ one that you were coming here today?
- 8 See if you can clear the table without dropping _____ thing!
- 9 'How many exercises have you done?' '_____ at all.'
- 10 _____ body's been sitting in my chair!

- ▷ *much* and *many* are used with *how*, *so*, *as* and *too*. *much* and *a little* are used with singular mass nouns, *many* and *a few* with plural count nouns.

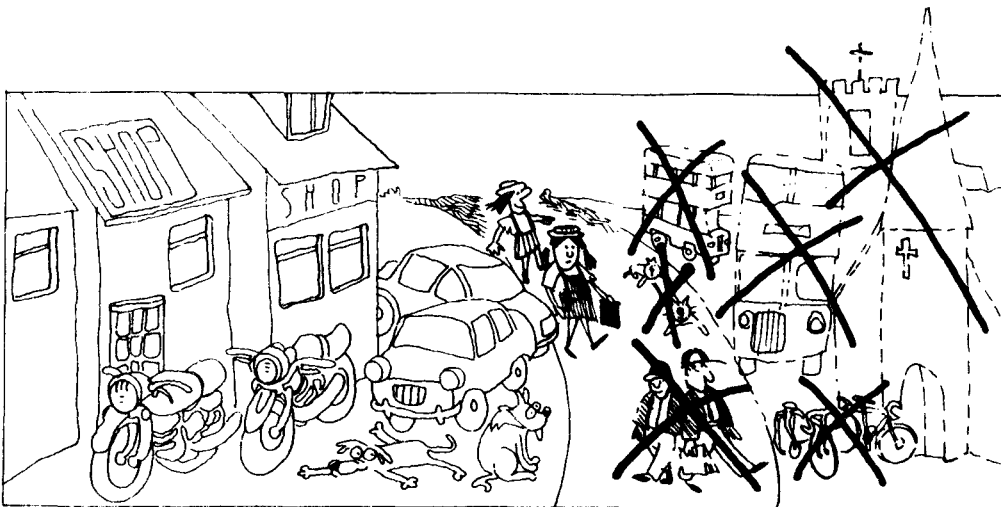
- 2 Fill in the blanks with a suitable determiner:

'Did you meet any interesting people at the party?' 'Only a few.'

- 1 'You haven't got _____ furniture, have you?' 'No, only a _____ pieces.'
- 2 Does a haircut cost as _____ as a shave?
- 3 'Have I put too _____ salt in this?' 'No, it needs a _____ more.'
- 4 I've spilled _____ drops of coffee on the carpet.

- 5 Well, there isn't _____ I can do about it, is there?
- 6 This will be a short letter, Mother, as I haven't got _____ news.
- 7 'How _____ money have you got?' 'Not _____.'
- 8 Eat as _____ fruit as you like.
- 9 Please try not to make so _____ mistakes in future!
- 10 A _____ knowledge is a dangerous thing.

3 Say what you can see in this picture:



I can see some motorbikes but I can't see any bicycles.
 or There are some motorbikes but there aren't any bicycles.

- 1 _____ schoolgirls _____ schoolboys.
- 2 _____ dogs _____ cats.
- 3 _____ cars _____ buses.
- 4 _____ shops _____ churches.

4 Determiners II

- 4 Rewrite these sentences so that they mean the same, using the words in brackets:

How much money is there in the till? Just a little. (*dollars*)

There are a few dollars in the till.

- 1 We've still got a little time to spare. (*minutes*)

- 2 I need some paper. Have you got any? (*notebook*)

- 3 Here are a few facts about Indonesia. (*information*)

- 4 'How much time did you spend in Florence?' 'Not much.' (*days*)

- 5 Could you put a few more logs on the fire? (*coal*)

- 6 We have a little orange juice, but not much milk. (*bottles of orange juice; cartons of milk*)

- 7 I need some cigarettes. Will you get me some? (*tobacco*)

- 8 Were there many cars in town? (*traffic*)

- 9 These are my suitcases. Where shall I put them? (*luggage*)