

# GRAMMAR LAND

7





# 1

## Countable and Uncountable Nouns

As we already know, **countable nouns** are things that we can count. They can be singular or plural. Collective nouns that name a group of people or objects are also countable nouns.

- ribbon - ribbons
- feather - feathers
- team - teams (collective noun)
- bunch - bunches (collective noun)



**Uncountable nouns** are those that we cannot count. They are always singular and do not have a plural form. Uncountable nouns include solids, liquids, gases, natural phenomena, abstract nouns, branches of learning, etc.

- sugar, ink, smoke, lightning, freedom, chemistry, etc



Let us look at this table to remember the determiners that are usually used with countable and uncountable nouns.

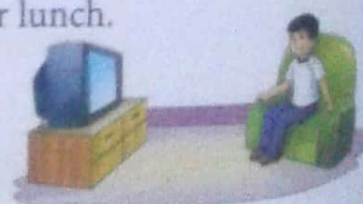
Used with countable nouns	<i>a, an, the</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a tree</li> <li>• an idea</li> <li>• the door</li> </ul>
	<i>some, many, any, few, a few, a lot of, lots of, How many?, these, a large number of, no, enough, plenty of</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some books</li> <li>• many flowers</li> <li>• any bottles</li> <li>• few questions</li> <li>• a few problems</li> <li>• a lot of friends</li> <li>• lots of gifts</li> <li>• How many fruits?</li> <li>• these oranges</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a large number of applicants</li> <li>• no experiments</li> <li>• enough seats</li> <li>• plenty of cities</li> </ul>
	<i>the</i> (when referring to something specific)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the juice</li> </ul>
Used with uncountable nouns	<i>much, a little, any, How much?, a lot of, lots of, this, a large amount of, no, enough, plenty of</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• much time</li> <li>• a little patience</li> <li>• any time</li> <li>• How much salt?</li> <li>• a lot of courage</li> <li>• lots of room</li> <li>• this oil</li> <li>• a large amount of milk</li> <li>• no peace</li> <li>• enough money</li> <li>• plenty of enthusiasm</li> </ul>
Used with both countable and uncountable nouns	<i>the, some, any, no, a lot of, lots of, enough, plenty of, this</i>	

**A** Choose the correct nouns from the box to complete these sentences.

universities      luggage      rice      enthusiasm  
 city      interview      research      programmes

1. We decided to have some rice and curry for lunch.
2. Anitha is attending an interview today for a job.
3. He likes to watch research on animal life and conservation.





4. Sona and Sourav showed plenty of ..... about taking up music lessons.
5. There has been a lot of ..... done on this subject.
6. Tarun has been applying to many ..... across the country.
7. This ..... has many historical sites and buildings.
8. How much ..... are you carrying on the trip?

**B** Choose the correct answers to complete these sentences.

1. I have a lot of (a lot of/a few) homework to finish by tomorrow.
2. There is ..... (no/any) jam left in the jar.
3. If you are going to the market, pick up ..... (some/many) bread too, please.
4. Joe must have ..... (a lot of/much) courage to face challenges like that.
5. There are ..... (few/little) tigers left in this national park.
6. Anchala can sit in the back of the car. There is ..... (plenty of/a large amount of) room back there.
7. The team showed ..... (a large amount of/a lot of) enthusiasm for the upcoming game.
8. The gift package will arrive soon. Have ..... (the/a little) patience.



Some nouns can be used as both countable and uncountable depending on the context in which they are used. Let us look at this table for examples.

Countable	Uncountable
1. He had the <b>ambition</b> to win.	1. He was overcome by <b>ambition</b> .
2. The explorers had an <b>adventure</b> .	2. The explorers enjoyed <b>adventure</b> .
3. Pour the water into a <b>glass</b> .	3. The windscreen is made of <b>glass</b> .
4. She threw a <b>stone</b> at me.	4. The library was built of <b>stone</b> .
5. The <b>papers</b> are all in the file.	5. The lamp is made of <b>paper</b> .

**G** Write whether the highlighted nouns are countable (C) or uncountable (UC).

1. You should wrap the string around the packet three **times** so that it doesn't give way. C
2. My grandmother had long, flowing **hair** even when she grew older. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Please move to the left and make some **room** for others. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I don't usually like the taste of **coffee**. But I ended up ordering a **coffee** this morning, because I was very **sleepy**. \_\_\_\_\_
5. I like to try new kinds of **food** every now and then. However, I am allergic to some **foods**. \_\_\_\_\_
6. There has never been a **time** when I haven't felt **gratitude** towards my parents. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The **glasses** on the counter are dirty. I will help you wash them. \_\_\_\_\_
8. My sister has written a **paper** on the need for renewable energy sources. \_\_\_\_\_



**H** Write sentences using these nouns. Use them as countable or uncountable nouns, as indicated in the brackets.

1. paper (uncountable)

We should recycle paper as much as possible.

2. memory (countable)

\_\_\_\_\_

3. adventure (uncountable)

\_\_\_\_\_

4. stone (countable)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. glass (uncountable)

\_\_\_\_\_





6. time (uncountable)

7. room (countable)

8. ambition (uncountable)

Often, we use the structure *a...of...* to quantify or measure uncountable nouns.

- a teaspoon of sugar
- a piece of information
- a cup of coffee
- a litre of milk



**E** Write uncountable nouns in the column on the right that will go with the phrases on the left.

1. a tube of

toothpaste  
ointment  
glue

2. a piece of

3. a pair of

4. a drop of

5. an item of

6. a bit of

**F** Complete these sentences, using the correct words from the box.

glass	packet	pair	sheet
piece	cups	litres	slices

1. Rohit wants to buy a pair of trousers for his father.
2. Ruhi was hungry. So I gave her a ..... of milk and a ..... of biscuits.
3. Each cow on the farm can give several ..... of milk every month.
4. The most important clue for the police was the ..... of paper left behind by the thief.
5. I make two ..... of tea every morning, one for me and one for my mother.
6. Although I only had two ..... of the chocolate cake, I already feel too full for dinner.
7. The spy was carrying an important ..... of information to his country.



**G** Circle the errors in the passage and write the correct words in the given space. Some lines may have no errors.

Sam and Irfan have just reached the city. They are carrying many luggage. So they decide to book a cab. They reach home only to find all the furnitures are gone! They call up their parents for their advices. The parents tell them to stay calm and gather more informations. "Are the money stolen too?" they ask. Sam checks the house. Everything else is in place. "Shifting so many furnitures must have been difficult. Who can do so many work alone?" Irfan thinks. Just then the bell rings. It's the neighbour. "He might have some knowledges about this," says Sam. He opens the door. "Hey, just wanted to give you these news

.....  
a lot of luggage  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....





that there was a termite attack in the building.

All the wooden equipments and furniture were in danger.

So we used the spare key to your house and moved your stuffs

to a safe place," says the neighbour and leaves. Sam and Irfan

look at each other and burst into a laughter.

### DIY Exercise

Picture your ideal world. Follow the given pattern and list out all the things that are or are not there in that world. Be as imaginative as you can!

's World

In my world, there are chocolates, but there is no sugar.

In my world, there are handshakes, but there are no salutes.

In my world, there are/is .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



# 2

## Articles and Determiners



### Determiners

As we already know, a **determiner** is a word that we use before a noun to show whether we are referring to something specific or in general. A determiner is usually followed by a noun.

We also know that determiners are of different types.

Articles (definite and indefinite)	<i>a, an, the</i>
Possessives	<i>my, your, our, his, her, its, their, whose</i>
Demonstratives	<i>this, that, these, those</i>
Quantifiers	<i>few, a few, little, a little, less, many, much, more, some, any, all</i>
Numbers	<i>one, two, three, etc</i>
Ordinals	<i>first, second, third, etc</i>
Interrogatives	<i>what, which, whose, etc</i>



### Articles

We use the **indefinite articles** *a* and *an* to refer to something in general.

- There is **a** monkey on the tree.
- I would like to have **an** orange.

We use the **definite article** *the* to refer to—

- specific people or things.
  - **the** girl who is dancing
  - **the** cup on **the** table



2. something that is one of a kind.

- the sun
- the moon

3. points of the compass.

- The sun rises in the east.

4. rivers, oceans, mountains, buildings, some countries, etc.

- the Yamuna, the Indian ocean, the Himalayas, the Taj Mahal, the United Kingdom, etc

We do not use articles before—

1. proper nouns.

- I am Sheila from next door.

2. abstract nouns used in a general sense.

- Honesty is a quality that everyone appreciates.

3. before nouns that are used in a general sense, including uncountable nouns.

- Animals can sense natural disasters more easily than humans.
- Life on earth is greatly dependent on water.

4. the names of cities, towns, countries, continents, days, months, arts, languages, sciences and some diseases.

- They are arriving here on Friday.
- He is trying to teach me French.

**A** Some of these sentences use incorrect articles or have missing articles. Rewrite the sentences correctly. Write correct if the sentence is correct.

1. The honesty is the best policy.

Honesty is the best policy.

2. A house that I used to live in is being renovated.

3. There is a unease among the party members about the new candidate.



4. The French student whom I had met last semester is coming to India again.
5. Concert is scheduled for next Friday.
6. The life on Mars doesn't look impossible any more.
7. A group of sherpas and well-trained mountaineers are planning to scale the Himalayas this summer.
8. There is a speck of dust in my eye. It went in when I was riding the bike.

**B** Complete this conversation with suitable articles. Put a cross (x) where no article is required.



Prakash: Which   x   school does your daughter go to?

Ahmed: My daughter goes to            pre-school for now.  
It is on            Buhari Lane, opposite            aquarium.

Prakash: How is it? I am looking for            good place for my son.  
He will turn            four this year.

Ahmed:            pre-school is good. Suhani loves it.            teachers are very  
attentive and believe in nurturing rather than just disciplining.

Prakash: Have you thought about which school to put her in next year?

Ahmed: There is            school in Andheri. I am planning to pay            visit  
and get all            information about it. You can come along, too.

Prakash: That would be very helpful. Thank you so much.



## Possessives and Demonstratives

Possessives show that something belongs to someone.

- You need to clean **your** shoes before you wear them.
- I met **his** mother the other day.

Demonstratives point to or indicate someone or something.

- **That** insect is a wasp, not a bee.
- **These** books are interesting.



**C** Complete these sentences using suitable possessives as indicated in brackets.

1. Sara liked my (the possessive form for **I**) ideas about what to create for the mid-term project.
2. Jessica has to take \_\_\_\_\_ (possessive form for **she**) dog to the vet. It has been scratching \_\_\_\_\_ (possessive form for **it**) stomach too much.
3. Mother has just started \_\_\_\_\_ (possessive form for **she**) own accounting company. \_\_\_\_\_ (possessive form for **it**) name is Solutions Pvt Ltd.
4. Do you want to collect \_\_\_\_\_ (possessive form for **you**) clothes from the tailor now?
5. The students have already written \_\_\_\_\_ (possessive form for **they**) exams this year.
6. I think we have to change \_\_\_\_\_ (possessive form of **we**) travel plans because of the weather.
7. These curtains are too heavy for \_\_\_\_\_ (possessive form of **I**) purpose. Show me another set, please.










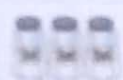





## Quantifiers

Quantifiers are used to indicate the quantity or amount of something.

- **Some** of my friends visited me during the weekend.
- There is a **little** orange juice left.



- D** Here is a table to show what Tina, Rahul, Jaya, Martin and Jose have with them. Write sentences about what they have and do not have using suitable quantifiers.

	Salt	Tomatoes	Oil	Bread
Tina				
Rahul and Jaya				
Martin				
Jose				

1. Tina has a little salt, some tomatoes, a lot of oil, but she hasn't got any bread.

2. Rahul and Jaya

3. Martin

4. Jose

5. Tina, Rahul and Jaya have ..... tomatoes and oil.

6. Jose has got ..... salt and very ..... oil in his house.



## Numbers and Ordinals

Numbers are used to show the exact number of things or persons.

- I have **three** sweaters with me.
- Two** of my cousins are studying abroad.



Ordinals are used to show the sequence or order of something.

- First, let's read the recipe once.
- A third of the students have opted for extra-curricular activities.



## Interrogatives

Interrogatives are used to ask specific questions.

- Which hotel are you staying at?
- Whose dictionary is this?

**E** Complete this conversation using suitable determiners from the box.

whose	which	two	four
next	seventh	first	what

Receptionist: Welcome to the New Age Hotel. How can I help you?

Smita: Thank you. I would like to book two rooms, please.

Receptionist:                      type of rooms are you looking for, ma'am?

Smita: I am looking for spacious rooms.                      rooms would you recommend for a family of six?

Receptionist: I would advise you to book a suite with an adjoining room. The suite is on the seventh floor, and has a very good view of the city. It can accommodate                      people easily. The other two can stay in the                      room.

Smita: That sounds good. Please make a booking for the                      weekend of May.

Receptionist: Sure, ma'am.                      name should I include in the booking?

Smita: I am Smita Tyagi. Here are my details. Thank you.





**F** Insert suitable articles wherever required.

This is a very useful bottle opener. It has many uses. It is shaped like a key so that it can be hung from a peg or a nail. One end is a bottle opener, and the other end is a knife. If you press a small black button, a knife slides out. There is also a corkscrew attached to a opener. This bottle opener is quite heavy; it can also be used to crush or break ice. I sometimes use it as a paperweight too. It is made of a brass and looks like a decorative item. It makes for quite a nice gift too.

**DIY Exercise**

What is in the refrigerator? List the items inside, using suitable articles and quantifiers.





## Adjectives

We know that an **adjective** describes a noun.

An adjective can help us express—

1. physical and other qualities.
  - short, round, tall
2. perceptions, attitudes or opinions.
  - easy, beautiful, annoying
3. degree or extent.
  - complete, partial, possible
4. frequency.
  - weekly, monthly, yearly
5. location or place.
  - internal, urban



## Position of Adjectives

We use some adjectives before the noun and some after. When we place them before the nouns they are called **attributive adjectives**. When we place them after the nouns, they are called **predicative adjectives**.

- You must change out of your **wet** clothes. (attributive adjective)
- Your clothes are still **wet**. (predicative adjective)

**A** Circle the adjectives in these sentences and write what type they are.

1. I prepare weekly budgets to track how I spend money.

adjective of frequency



2. It was a lovely morning, so we all decided to go for a walk in the hills.

3. I am glad to know you scored so well in your exams.

4. The accident was pretty bad. I hope he has no internal injuries.

5. Soumya took an early flight from the airport.

6. The grey birds that you can see over there often migrate to the south for the winter.



**B** Complete these sentences using suitable adjectives from the box.

many	strong	heavy	worried
your	happy	five	this

1. The chocolate drink my friend makes is very strong in flavour.

2. Rohit is worried that he might not be able to reach Mumbai in time for the ceremony.

3. We will meet you at five o'clock this evening.

4. May I have your attention, please?

5. I am sending many package to my friend Amala.

6. Chennai experienced heavy rains recently.

7. The children were happy to have an extra day off this week.

8. Sumit has been acting in plays for five years now.





## Forms of Adjectives

When we use an adjective to compare two or more things, we use the comparative or superlative forms.

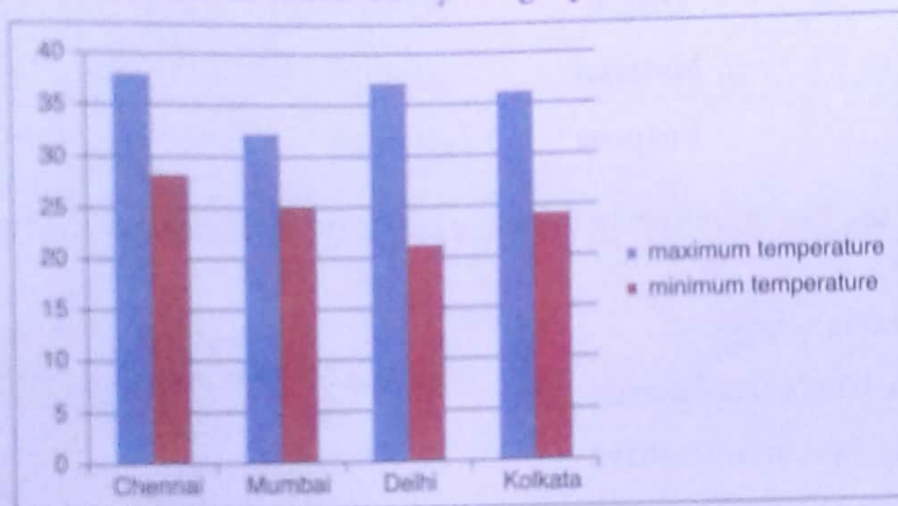
The **comparative** and **superlative** forms of many adjectives takes the *-er* and *-est* forms.

- small – smaller – smallest

Usually, longer adjectives take *more* and *most*.

- comfortable – more comfortable – most comfortable

- C** This graph shows the average temperature (in degree Celsius) recorded in April 2016 in four Indian cities. Study the graph and complete the sentences.



1. Chennai recorded the highest (high) temperature in April.
2. The maximum temperature recorded in Delhi was ..... (much) than that of Mumbai, but its minimum temperature is ..... (little) than that of Mumbai.
3. Mumbai seems to be the ..... (cool) of the four cities shown in the graph.
4. Kolkata was ..... (hot) than Mumbai, but ..... (cool) than Chennai.
5. In Mumbai, the difference between the maximum and the minimum temperatures was the ..... (little) out of the four cities.
6. According to the graph, it would have been ..... (pleasant) to visit Mumbai in April than Chennai, Delhi or Kolkata.





## Order of Adjectives

When two or more adjectives are used before a noun, they are placed in a particular order.

Number	three
Opinion	wonderful
Size	large
Quality	soft
Age	old
Shape	circular
Colour	red
Origin	Italian
Material	glass
Purpose	cleaning

When we use two adjectives of the same category, the shorter of the two comes first.

- tired, hungry boy
- honest, trustworthy person
- a lovely, new, woolen shawl
- a clear, cloudless, blue sky
- three old, green, plastic, water bottles
- a large, heavy, carved, wooden box



### Note

It is better not to use too many adjectives in a sentence, in order to keep our writing simple and appealing.

**D** Write the adjectives in brackets in the correct order.

1. a song (old, Hindi, lovely)
2. a lamp (handmade, paper, beautiful)

a lovely old Hindi song



3. a scarf (torn, silk, old)
4. a table (teakwood, brown, shiny)
5. a hat (worn-out, ancient, tall)
6. a road (deserted, winding, long)
7. a film (old, silent, Hollywood)
8. a pair of shoes (new, leather, black)



## Participial Adjectives

The participles, both present participles and past participles, can also do the work of adjectives. These are called **participial adjectives**.

The *-ing* form of participial adjectives help us describe what something is like; its effect on us.

- an **interesting** book
- The match was **exciting**!

The *-ed* forms of participial adjectives help us describe how we feel about something, or the state of our feelings.

- an **agitated** crowd
- Sheila was **bored**.

### **E** Underline the participial adjectives in these sentences.

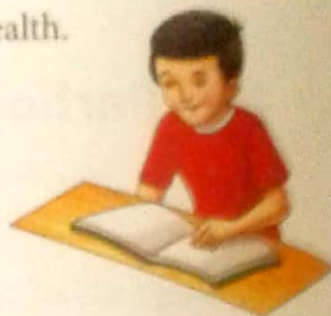
1. The roller-coaster ride at the amusement park was thrilling.
2. The most exciting part of my day is when I go for my dance class.
3. Students are excited about their upcoming trip to Ladakh.
4. It is surprising that Rati made it at all.
5. The long day at work has left me really tired.
6. It was frightening to watch that horror film last night.
7. Those who are interested need to sign up for the summer camp at the earliest.
8. I am worried about my driving test tomorrow.





**F** Circle the correct adjectives to complete these sentences.

1. I enjoyed the play thoroughly. The main character was quite ~~interested~~ interesting.
2. It was very satisfying/~~satisfied~~ to spend the day at the animal shelter.
3. I don't think anybody believed his story, but we all found it very ~~amused~~/amusing.
4. Suhel was shocked/~~shocking~~ to know that his team had been disqualified.
5. We were all very worried/~~worrying~~ about grandfather's health.
6. He was more relaxing/~~relaxed~~ after a good night's rest.
7. I usually find books with no pictures rather ~~bored~~/boring.
8. Molly is terrified/~~terrifying~~ of lizards.



**G** Complete this story using the correct adjectives from the box.

first	hundred	professional	angry
busy	quiet	two	loud
many	entire	either	nearest

Anand, a professional writer, went to the countryside for a rest. He found for himself a ..... cottage some distance away from the ..... village. There were only ..... huts, one on ..... side of the cottage. Other than these two huts, there were no buildings in the ..... area. "Here's peace at last," Anand said to himself on the ..... night and for the first time in ..... years, he slept soundly.

Early the next morning, he was woken up by ..... noises. He went out of the cottage and found that the noises were coming from the two huts. To his right was Puttu and to his left was Kuttu, both blacksmiths ..... at work. They were banging away with their hammers. He called both of them and promised them a ..... rupees if they left their huts. They both agreed to leave and took the money. Relieved, Anand went back to his cottage.



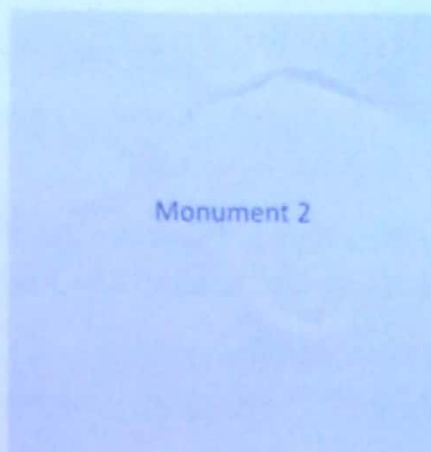
At five the next morning, he was woken up by the same noises. He was very ..... He thought that the blacksmiths had not kept their promise. But, they had. Puttu had moved into Kuttu's hut and Kuttu had moved into Puttu's.

### DIY Exercise

Paste pictures of any two historical monuments here. Compare and contrast the two, using as many adjectives as possible.



Monument 1



Monument 2

---

---

---

---

---