

Choose the letter of the underlined word or group of words that is not correct.

- _____ 4. The first fish have appeared on the earth approximately 500 million years ago.
 A B C D
- _____ 5. Only rarely sound waves are of a single frequency encountered in practice.
 A B C D
- _____ 6. Cameos can be carved not only from onyx and sardonyx or from agate.
 A B C D
- _____ 7. Although most of the wild horses on the western range have already been rounded up, the most remote the area, the greater the possibility that wild horses can still be found.
 A B C D
- _____ 8. During this period, \$206 was spend annually on food by families in the lower third income bracket.
 A B C D
- _____ 9. The dangers of noise are, unfortunately, not as clear-cut than are those from most other health hazards.
 A B C D
- _____ 10. In a recent survey of Americans, more than 75 percent expressed the view that the government it should take a more active role in health care.
 A B C D

PROBLEMS WITH NOUNS

The same types of problems with nouns appear often in written expression questions on the TOEFL test. You should be familiar with these problems so that you will recognize them easily. You should be able to do the following: (1) use the correct singular or plural noun, (2) distinguish countable and uncountable nouns, (3) recognize irregular singular and plural nouns, and (4) distinguish the person from the thing.

SKILL 39: USE THE CORRECT SINGULAR OR PLURAL NOUN

A problem that is common in written expression questions on the TOEFL test is a singular noun used where a plural noun is needed, or a plural noun used where a singular noun is needed.

On the table there were many *dish**.

The lab assistant finished every *tests**.

In the first example, *many* indicates that the plural *dishes* is needed. In the second example, *every* indicates that the singular *test* is needed.

In written expression questions on the TOEFL test, you should watch very carefully for key words, such as *each*, *every*, *a*, *one*, and *single*, that indicate that a noun should be singular. You should also watch carefully for such key words as *many*, *several*, *both*, *various*, and *two* (or any other number except *one*) that indicate that a noun should be plural.

The following chart lists the key words that indicate to you whether a noun should be singular or plural:

KEY WORDS FOR SINGULAR AND PLURAL NOUNS					
For Singular Nouns	<i>each</i>	<i>every</i>	<i>single</i>	<i>one</i>	<i>a</i>
For Plural Nouns	<i>both</i>	<i>two</i>	<i>many</i>	<i>several</i>	<i>various</i>

EXERCISE 39: Each of the following sentences contains at least one key word to tell you if a noun should be singular or plural. Circle the key words. Draw arrows to the nouns they describe. Then indicate if the sentences are correct (C) or incorrect (I).

- I 1. The automotive shop stocked many part for the various types of Hondas.
- C 2. Every receipt must be removed from the cashier's drawer and tallied.
- _____ 3. The salesclerk demonstrated various additional way that the machine could be used.
- _____ 4. The woman found it difficult to believe that both of the piece of jewelry had disappeared.
- _____ 5. The unhappy man became more and more discouraged with each passing days.
- _____ 6. An extended cruise would be a nice way to spend a vacation one days.
- _____ 7. The manager was surprised that not a single worker was available on Tuesday.
- _____ 8. The housekeeper cleaned the room and took two of the occupant's dress to the laundry.
- _____ 9. When the first bill was defeated, the Senate immediately began work on a different bills.
- _____ 10. There were several boxes in the cupboard, and each box contained a dozen glasses.

SKILL 40: DISTINGUISH COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

In English, nouns are classified as countable or uncountable. For certain questions on the TOEFL test, it is necessary to distinguish countable and uncountable nouns in order to use the correct modifiers with them.

As the name implies, countable nouns are nouns that can be counted. Countable nouns can come in quantities of one, or two, or a hundred, etc. The noun *book* is countable because you can have one book or several books.