

Advanced 1
Unit 5 Language Focus 3
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Subject-Verb Agreement

1. Plural Titles of Books

The title of a book is considered as a unit and it has to be followed by a singular verb even if the title is plural.

Examples:

The Three Musketeers is a historical novel written by Alexander Dumas.

The Three Musketeers ⇒ the title of a book

The three musketeers were hiding in ambush to assassinate a politician.

The three musketeers ⇒ three gunmen

More Examples:

Great Expectations captures the essence of Victorian society.

The Brothers Karamazov explores deep philosophical questions.

The Chronicles of Narnia transports readers to a magical world.

The Grapes of Wrath depicts the struggles of the Great Depression.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes remains a classic in detective fiction.

2. Amounts of Time & Money as a Unit

Five Euros is enough for this child as his pocket money.

Five Euros ⇒ a whole unit

Five Euros were lying on the table.

Five Euros ⇒ each Euro as a separate entity

More Examples:

Amounts of Money Considered as One Unit (Singular Verb)

- **Fifty dollars** is enough to buy a decent meal.
- **Ten thousand dollars** was donated to the charity.
- **One hundred euros** is the cost of the ticket.
- **Five million yen** is required to start the project.

Amounts of Money Considered as Separate Entities (Plural Verb)

- **Ten dollars** were scattered on the floor.
- **Hundreds of dollars** have been spent on repairs.
- **Thousands of euros** were collected from different donors.
- **Several hundred yen** were found in the drawer.

These examples illustrate how the verb changes depending on whether the amount of money is viewed as a single unit or as multiple entities.

Plural amounts of time considered as one unit (singular verb):

- **Five years** is a long time to wait for a promotion.
- **Three weeks** seems like an eternity when you're waiting for vacation.
- **Ten minutes** is enough to finish this task.
- **Two hours** is all we need to complete the project.
- **Several months** has passed since we last met.

Plural amounts of time considered as separate entities (plural verb):

- **Five years** have passed since we graduated.
- **Three weeks** are left until the deadline.
- **Ten minutes** have gone by without any progress.
- **Two hours** were spent discussing the new strategy.
- **Several months** have been dedicated to this research.

3. Plural Diseases & Fields of Study

There are not many words for diseases that end in plural s, as most diseases are either singular or uncountable nouns. However, some examples of diseases that end in plural s are:

measles
mumps

rabies
rickets

shingles

Measles is a highly contagious disease that causes a rash and fever, while **rickets** is a condition that affects the bones due to vitamin D deficiency.

Mumps is a contagious viral infection that causes the swelling of the salivary glands.

Rabies is a fatal disease that affects the nervous system of mammals.

Shingles is a painful rash that is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox.

Shingles usually affects one side of the body, often the chest, back, or face.

There are many single-word fields of study or subjects at school that end in plural s. Here are some examples:

Mathematics: the study of numbers, shapes, and patterns.

Physics: the study of matter, energy, and their interactions.

Economics: the study of how people produce, distribute, and consume goods and services.

Linguistics: the study of language and its structure, meaning, and use.

Statistics: the study of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data.

Ethics: the study of moral principles and values.

Genetics: the study of heredity and variation in living organisms.

Politics: the study of government, power, and public affairs.

Classics: the study of the ancient cultures of Greece and Rome.

Humanities: the study of human culture, history, and society.

Physics is considered as an important subject at this school.

Statistics is the language of many branches of science.

statistics = a field of study dealing with the collection and analysis of quantifiable data

Point:

In the following example, the word “statistics” is not a field of study and it is considered as a plural noun:

The statistics provided by the company were totally misleading and erroneous.

statistics = pieces of data

4. Nouns which Are Always Plural

There are some English nouns that are always plural, meaning they do not have a singular form. We use them with plural verbs and plural pronouns. For example:

- **Clothing items** such as jeans, pants, pajamas, shorts, trousers, etc.
- **Tools or objects** with two parts such as scissors, pliers, tongs, tweezers, binoculars, glasses, etc.
- **Abstract nouns** such as earnings, belongings, congratulations, thanks, outskirts, premises, surroundings, etc.

Some of these nouns can be used with the expression *a pair of* or *pairs of* to indicate quantity, such as a pair of jeans, two pairs of glasses, etc.

Examples:

His glasses were made of gold.

Blue jeans are very popular among young people in this city.

The pants that he bought were very expensive.

Watch out! The scissors are very sharp.

5. A Number Of vs. The Number Of

A number of **students** were absent.

a number of = some

the head word of the noun phrase ⇨ students

The **number** of absentees has increased this week.

the head word of the noun phrase ⇨ number

Source:

[Advanced 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)