

# GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE- PRAYAGRAJ

SESSION 2020-2021

WORKSHEET NO-4

CLASS- 8 (A,B,C,D,E)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

**NOTE**- Parents please ensure that the student refers to the topic "SPECIAL SINGULARS AND PLURALS" from any Grammar book or the internet.

Q1. Write an essay on the topic 'My Ambition'.

Q2. Write an informal letter to your friend telling her how you spent your summer vacation.

## **TOPIC- SPECIAL SINGULARS AND PLURALS**

A Noun that denotes one person or thing, is said to be in the Singular Number; as, boy, girl, cow, bird, tree, book, pen.

A Noun that denotes more than one person or thing, is said to be in the Plural Number; as, boys, girls, cows, birds, trees, books, pens.

Thus there are two Numbers in English- the singular and the plural.

Let us understand

There are some nouns, singular in form, which are used in a plural sense.

Examples:

- People: Such people are dangerous.
- Poultry: These poultry are mine.
- Vermin: These kinds of vermin spread diseases.
- Gentry: The gentry are people of good social position.
- Cattle: The cattle are grazing in the field.

**Note**: When 'people' is used in the sense of nation, the plural is 'peoples'.

Example: The world is inhabited by different peoples.

The following nouns have the same form for the plural as for the singular.

Examples:

- Deer: This deer can run fast.  
These deer have beautiful horns.

- Sheep: There is a sheep in the field.  
These sheep have no wool on them.
- Dozen: I bought a dozen pencils.  
She gave us two dozen pencils.
- Hundred: I have one hundred rupees.  
They have five hundred rupees.
- Thousands: I have one thousand rupees.  
She has three thousand rupees.

**Note: We can also say as follows:**

- I've been to this cinema hall **dozens** of times.
- Aishwarya Rai has **thousands** of fans.
- He won **hundreds** of hearts with his performance.

Some nouns are always used in the plural form:

- **Names of instruments/objects which have two parts forming a kind of pair, are used in the plural.**

Examples:

- Scissors: This pair of **scissors** is sharp.
- Spectacles: This pair of **spectacles** belongs to me.
- Trousers: There is a pair of **trousers** in the almirah.

- **Names of certain games, diseases, sciences, or branches of knowledge which end in -s, are also singular and take a singular verb like measles, physics, economics, politics, etc.**

Examples:

- **Measles** is an infectious disease.
- **Mathematics** is a tough subject.
- **Mumps** is a serious disease.
- **Politics** is full of tactics.
- **Billiards** is an interesting game.

- **The following nouns are always used in the singular.**

Examples:

- Furniture: The **furniture** of my house is quite new.
- News: This **news** is true and it is verified.
- Scenery: The **scenery** of Kashmir is charming.
- Innings: Virat Kohli played a good **innings**.

- Gallows: **Gallows** is meant for the criminals.
- Summons: I have received this **summons** from the court.

➤ **There are some nouns which are either not used at all in the plural, or are used in the plural in some special sense.**

Examples:

- Abuse: I got much **abuse** due to a small mistake.
- Advice: Take my **advice** and work hard.
- Alphabet: To learn any language, it is important to learn the **alphabet** first.
- Folk: Gujarati **folk** are very superstitious.
- Information: He had an important **information** for me. The news reader gave a useful piece (bit) of information.
- Offspring: These two children are my brother's **offspring**.
- Poetry: Do you like reading **poetry**?

**Note: We can also use the following words in this way-**

- He gave me a valuable piece of advice.
- She gave me some pieces of furniture.
- I have some bits of information about the accident.

➤ **Some nouns, which take the plural form generally, retain the singular form to express some specific quantity or number.**

Examples:

- a hundred rupee note
- a ten pound note
- a four-week course
- a three foot rule
- a two-month-old baby
- a three-year-old child
- a five-month holiday
- a fortnight

➤ **Collective nouns such as the following are usually singular, so they take a singular verb.**

- a group( of things)
- a herd (of cattle)
- a regiment (of soldiers)
- a crowd (of people)
- a flock (of sheep)
- a fleet (of ships)

Examples:

- A **group** of devotees was standing in the middle of the road.
- A **flock** of sheep was seen in the field.
- A **fleet** of ships was near the harbour.

**I. Study the use of some special cases:**

- Riches: **Riches** do not last forever.
- Thanks: **Thanks** are due to your father.
- Means: An aeroplane is the fastest **means** of transport.
- News: This is the latest **news**.

**How plurals are formed:**

- a) The Plural of nouns is generally formed by adding –s to the singular: as,  
boy, boys girl, girls book, books
  - b) But Nouns ending in –s, -sh, -ch, or –x form the plural by adding –es to the singular; class,  
classes box, boxes branch, branches match, matches
  - c) Most Nouns ending in –o also form the plural by adding –es to the singular; as, potato,  
potatoes hero, heroes
  - d) A few nouns ending in –o merely add –s, as, dynamo, dynamos piano, pianos
  - e) Nouns ending in –y, preceded by a consonant, form their plural by changing –y into –i and  
adding –es; as baby, babies city, cities army, armies
  - f) The following nouns ending in –f or –fe form their plural by changing –f or –fe into v and  
adding –es; as, thief, thieves wife, wives
  - g) A Compound noun generally forms its plural by adding –s to the principal word; as,  
Daughter-in-law, daughters-in-law Passer-by, passers-by
  - h) Some nouns are used only in the plural like
- **Names of instruments which have two parts forming a kind of pair; as,**  
Scissors, spectacles, tongs
- **Names of certain articles of dress; as,**  
Trousers, jeans, pyjamas
- i) Some nouns originally singular are now generally used in the plural; as, Alms, riches
  - j) The following nouns look plural but are in fact singular:
    - Names of subjects as mathematics, physics, etc.
    - The word news

- Names of some common diseases as measles, mumps, rickets
- Names of some games as billiards, draughts

k) Certain collective Nouns, though singular in form, are always used as plurals; as, Poultry, cattle, people, gentry, vermin.

**On the basis of above explanation, answer the following questions:-**

**Q.1 Choose the correct form of the verb from the brackets to complete the following sentences. The first one has been done for you as an example:**

- a) The herd of cattle (is/are) grazing in the field. Answer- is
- b) She put all of the (disc/discs) in order.
- c) A disease like mumps (is/are) to be avoided at all costs.
- d) A lot of hard work (need/needs) to be put in this project.
- e) We visited four (nursery/nurseries) before we found the right one.
- f) Mathematics (is/are) the most important subject for students.
- g) This flock of birds (is/are) generally seen at daybreak.
- h) I bought three (dozen/dozens) oranges.
- i) Milton's poetry (is/are) worth remembering.
- j) All the members of the family (has/have) left.

**Q.2 Which of the two words given in brackets is correct? Strike out the wrong word and write the correct word in the space provided.**

- a) I bought a set of (brushs/brushes) last week. \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Put those (boxes/boxs) in the back of the car. \_\_\_\_\_
- c) The hunter shot many (deer/deers). \_\_\_\_\_
- d) He gave me a piece of (advice/advices). \_\_\_\_\_
- e) Ram has joined a (four-week/four-weeks) management course. \_\_\_\_\_
- f) Our teacher gives too many (quizzes/quizzes). \_\_\_\_\_
- g) (Thousand/Thousands) of people were there to cheer the Indian Cricket Team. \_\_\_\_\_
- h) Can a word have two (prefixes/prefixs)? \_\_\_\_\_
- i) All the (machinery/machineris) was imported from the U.S.A. \_\_\_\_\_
- j) I ate two (lunchs/lunches) today. \_\_\_\_\_

**Q.3 Write the plural form of each singular noun below. Write a sentence with each plural form.**

- a) Woman-
- b) Computer-
- c) Child-
- d) Man-
- e) Ocean-

**Q.4 Fill in the blanks with either is or are:-**

- a) He \_\_\_ a very nice person.
- b) This pair of scissors \_\_\_ brand new.
- c) My trousers \_\_\_ on the bed.
- d) May be your pyjamas \_\_\_ in the drawer.
- e) Mice \_\_\_ very annoying in a house.

**Q.5 Rewrite the following sentences by changing the singular into the plural form and vice-versa: Make the other necessary changes as well.**

- a) The commander-in-chief ordered the armies to retreat.
- b) Some passer-by took the girl to her parents.
- c) Mrs. Rowland is very fond of her daughter-in-law.
- d) The children are flying kites in the park.
- e) Bring me a loaf of bread please.

**Q.6 Rectify the underlined mistakes and rewrite the statement.**

- a. His informations are wrong.
- b. Her hairs have turned grey.
- c. The news of his death are not true.
- d. The police have arrested the thief.
- e. My sympathies are always with the poor.

**Q.7 Do as directed:**

- a. There were lots of \_\_\_ at the display. (Write the correct plural spelling of 'firework').
- b. She threw all of her \_\_\_ out of the tram. (Write the correct plural spelling of toy).
- c. Please wash up all these \_\_\_\_. (Write the correct plural spelling of dish).
- d. She was wearing three \_\_\_ because she was very cold. (Write the correct plural spelling of scarf).
- e. He wanted twenty \_\_\_ of the photograph! (Write the correct plural spelling of copy).

**THE END**