



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Advanced

**Adapted and modified by
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<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

A Family Decision by K S Sandhu

In our small town near the mountains, my family has always been close. My parents, my brother Banta and I live together in a house full of love, but also full of debates! Last month, a big problem arrived when the local government, along with most of the town council, decided to build a new sports centre. The news spread quickly.

Rickets is a disease caused by a lack of vitamin D, and doctors say children need more exercise and sunlight. Our town has very little sunshine in winter, so the committee thought a modern centre with indoor facilities was a good idea. But not everyone agreed.

Both my brother and sister have lived here all our lives, and we love running. Banta dreams of competing in the Olympics one day. He says, "The 10,000 kilometres is the longest walking competition in the Olympics, but I prefer running!" I laughed and told him that distance events require patience.

Our family argues a lot about money. Dad thinks economics is really interesting and says the project will cost too much. Mum disagrees: "A lack of courage is not what stops us; it's an anxiety about getting seriously injured if we don't invest in health!" She pointed out that information on late Renaissance Florentine artists, which she studies for fun, shows how communities built beautiful things together despite difficulties.

Then came the surprise: a famous band from London announced a concert to raise money for the sports centre. That band always has a reputation for performing better in the studio than live, but their fans love them anyway. Everyone in town was excited! Tickets sold out in hours, and the local committee was busy organising food stalls and decorations.

The majority of the people in India don't eat meat, in particular beef. But our community doesn't mind eating roast beef and Yorkshire pudding now and then. So we prepared this dish for the band when they performed in our town. My mum and aunties worked all day in the kitchen. Roast beef is tender and juicy, and the Yorkshire pudding rises perfectly with a crispy edge—there's nothing more delicious on a cold evening! ...

The local police are interviewing several suspects in connection with recent attacks on building sites, so some people worry about safety. However, the government has voted to continue the plan.

I first felt the desire to visit Venice when looking at a painting by Canaletto in a book. Now I dream of travelling, but first we must decide about our town.

In the end, the town committee is meeting again. What my brother really wants us to buy him for his birthday are some new Nike trainers. He says they will help him train! My sister and I think the sports centre will bring more than just exercise—it will bring hope.

We developed a passion for community decisions at home. There's nothing more delicious than seeing a town come together, like lamb with mint sauce on a special day. In the end, unity wins.

Nouns, possessives and pronouns

Before you start

1 Review these intermediate grammar points and check you know them.

Types of noun

- concrete e.g. *artist, table, child, station, food, storm*
- abstract e.g. *art, responsibility, anger, efficiency, perception, photography*
- proper (the names of people, places, events, etc.) e.g. *Jane, London, August*

COUNTABLE NOUNS *a car, three cars*

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS *oil, beauty, fruit*

We do not use *a/an* with uncountable nouns, and we do not usually make them plural.

Possessive forms

- 1 noun + 's or ' (usually with people and animals): *One of **Sam's** vehicles has been damaged.*
noun + *of* + noun (usually with things): *There's a scratch on **the** paintwork of his car.*
- 2 If the meaning is clear from the context, we can omit the following noun:
*That isn't my handwriting. It's **Selina's**.* (= Selina's handwriting)

Personal pronouns

SUBJECT PRONOUNS	OBJECT PRONOUNS	(POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES)	POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS	REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS
<i>I</i>	<i>me</i>	<i>my</i>	<i>mine</i>	<i>myself</i>
<i>you</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>your</i>	<i>yours</i>	<i>yourself/yourselfs</i>
<i>he</i>	<i>him</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>his</i>	<i>himself</i>
<i>she</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>her</i>	<i>hers</i>	<i>herself</i>
<i>it</i>	<i>it</i>	<i>its</i>		<i>itself</i>
<i>we</i>	<i>us</i>	<i>our</i>	<i>ours</i>	<i>ourselves</i>
<i>they</i>	<i>them</i>	<i>their</i>	<i>theirs</i>	<i>themselves</i>

- subject pronoun: *Hockney is Britain's most famous painter. **He's** from Yorkshire.*
- object pronoun: *I met Julian yesterday. I like **him**, don't you?* (direct object)
*Those books belong to Julian. Can you give **them** to **him**, please?* (indirect object)
- possessive adjective: *Did Susie leave that here? It looks like **her** umbrella.*
- possessive pronoun: *No, it's not her umbrella. It's **ours**. Don't you recognise it?*
- reflexive pronoun: *Quick! The baby's burnt **herself**!*

Indefinite pronouns

<i>someone/body¹</i>	<i>something</i>	<i>somewhere</i>	<i>somehow</i>
<i>anyone/body</i>	<i>anything</i>	<i>anywhere</i>	<i>anyhow²</i>
<i>everyone/body</i>	<i>everything</i>	<i>everywhere</i>	
<i>no one/body³</i>	<i>nothing</i>	<i>nowhere</i>	

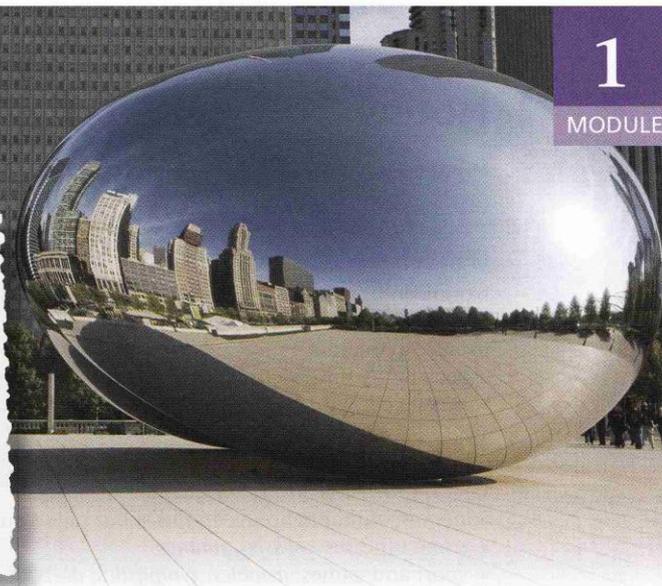
¹ We use *-one* and *-body* interchangeably.

² *anyhow* is informal and is similar to *anyway*.
Anyhow, as I was saying ...

³ We usually write *no one* as two words, and *nobody* as one word.

2 Read the text and identify examples of nouns, pronouns and possessive forms.

SINCE THE INVENTION of photography, art has been creating a new identity for itself. Movements from impressionism to abstract expressionism have widened the boundaries of what one might describe as 'art'. People's perceptions have changed and nowadays we no longer define a great work of art by its beauty but by its ability to show us something in a new way, or to challenge our perception of what it is to be human.



3 Complete the diagnostic test below. Choose the correct words in *italics*. If both options are correct, choose both.

- 1 The *chair* / *chairwoman* has just phoned to say she's been delayed in traffic. ➤ Unit 1.1
- 2 Have you thought about doing gymnastics? I think *it's* / *they're* very good for you. ➤ Unit 1.2
- 3 The society's president, against the wishes of the other founder members, *has* / *have* agreed to the sale. ➤ Unit 1.3
- 4 I love Adam Sandler's movies. I thought 'Funny People' *was* / *were* hilarious. ➤ Unit 1.4
- 5 The disabled *has* / *have* won a number of rights in recent years. ➤ Unit 1.5
- 6 Eliot was hit on the head by *stone* / *a stone* and had to be rushed to hospital. ➤ Unit 1.6
- 7 Our local delicatessen offers an enormous range of *cheese* / *cheeses*. ➤ Unit 1.7
- 8 The villa we're borrowing belongs to my *sister's-in-law* / *sister-in-law's* parents. ➤ Unit 2.1
- 9 I might be able to get you an interview; the owner's a friend of *me* / *mine*. ➤ Unit 2.2
- 10 Everyone's been admiring my *expensive wife's car* / *wife's expensive car*. ➤ Unit 2.3
- 11 Karen noticed the article in *the local paper of today* / *today's local paper*. ➤ Unit 3.1
- 12 We could hear the *crowd's cheers* / *cheers of the crowd* that lined the street. ➤ Unit 3.2
- 13 Wouldn't you agree that the processor is the *computer's main component* / *main component of the computer*? ➤ Unit 3.3
- 14 The class will be reading *the short stories' collection of Graham Greene* / *Graham Greene's collection of short stories* next term. ➤ Unit 3.4
- 15 The food in his paintings looks good enough *to eat it* / *to eat*. ➤ Unit 4.1
- 16 If you'd like a new tennis racket, I can get you *one* / *a one* very cheaply. ➤ Unit 4.2
- 17 Some elderly people have difficulty in *remembering themselves* / *remembering* what happened only a few hours before. ➤ Unit 4.3
- 18 On his return, Dieter and his wife had a lot to tell *themselves* / *each other*. ➤ Unit 4.4
- 19 In cases like these, *you* / *one* can understand the motive behind the attack. ➤ Unit 5.1
- 20 Can you repeat that? There was *something* / *anything* you said which I didn't quite understand. ➤ Unit 5.2

1 Nouns

Plural forms of nouns and irregular noun plurals ► page 366

Differences between British and American English ► page 368

1 Gender

Nouns do not have grammatical gender in English. To show gender in job nouns we have to say *a female/woman doctor*, *a male doctor*, etc. A few nouns show gender by their suffix, usually masculine gender, such as *businessman*. A lot of people avoid these nouns now, especially if referring to a woman, and prefer a form with no obvious gender, e.g. *chair*, or to match the suffix to the person, e.g. *chairwoman*:

That's the view of Sheila Davison, chair(woman) of the Institute of Public Relations.

2 Nouns ending in -s

Some uncountable nouns end in -s but take a singular verb, for example

- some illnesses: *measles, mumps*
 - sport and games: *aerobics, gymnastics, darts*
 - study/abstract ideas/emotions: *mathematics, politics, news, thanks, happiness*
- Politics is a topic best avoided with people you don't know well.*



A plural subject describing a specific measurement usually takes a singular verb:

X Two metres aren't particularly tall these days.

✓ Two metres isn't particularly tall these days.

Twenty-four hours is a long time in politics. Ten miles is too far to walk.

A few nouns are more common in the plural form and take a plural verb, e.g. *goods, whereabouts, remains, stairs, proceeds*:

The auction raised a lot of money and the proceeds were given to a children's charity.

Some nouns refer to one object divided into two parts and take a plural verb, e.g. *glasses, jeans, pyjamas, scales, scissors, spectacles, trousers*:
Special scissors are used to cut this fabric.

3 Noun-verb agreement

The verb usually agrees with the subject noun even if it is separated by prepositional phrases, relative clauses, brackets or commas:

The petrol station across the road from the new shops has just cut its prices.

However, if the verb is a long way from the subject and closer to a complement (► Unit 42.1/2), the verb can agree with the complement:

The most exciting event was the rowing finals.

The most exciting event in the Sydney Olympics for most British viewers was/were the rowing finals.

The same can apply after *what* used to introduce a noun clause:

What the Board needs to finalise now is/are the terms of the redundancies.

4 Two subjects/plural subject-verb agreement

We usually use a plural verb with two subjects linked by *and* or *both ... and*:

Mum and Dad were hoping that you'd join them this evening.

Both the doctor and the surgeon have advised me to have the operation.

However, we use a singular verb if we consider the two items as one single concept:

X Fish and chips are one of the most common English dishes.

✓ Fish and chips is one of the most common English dishes.

Titles of books, films, etc. take a singular verb, even if they are plural nouns:

Hitchcock's film 'The Birds' is based on a story by Daphne du Maurier.

5 Collective noun–verb agreement

Collective nouns refer to a group of people, animals or things, e.g. *family, government, group, staff, team, band, class*. A large number of proper nouns fall into this category, e.g. *the United Nations, British Airways, Microsoft Corporation*. We can usually use a singular or plural verb after these nouns. The choice can depend on how we think of the noun:

	SINGULAR VERB	PLURAL VERB
collective noun seen as a whole entity	<i>The family has a monthly income of \$2,000.</i>	
collective noun seen as a group of individuals		<i>The family are all gathering here for New Year.</i>
a + collective noun	<i>A team of inspectors is visiting the prison tomorrow.</i>	

We always use a plural verb for

- certain collective nouns, e.g. *police, people, cattle*:
The police are investigating his accusation of fraud.
- an adjective used as a collective noun (► Unit 12.5):
The middle-aged have a lot to offer employers.
- nouns such as *the majority/a number/a couple + of + plural noun*:
The majority of the people were pleased to see the government fall.

6 Countable and uncountable nouns

Some nouns can be countable or uncountable, but have different meanings:

COUNTABLE MEANING	UNCOUNTABLE MEANING
<i>I'd love a coffee,¹ please. (= a cup)</i>	<i>Do you drink coffee? (= the liquid)</i>
<i>I'll buy a chicken² for dinner tonight. (= the whole bird)</i>	<i>Would you like some chicken for dinner? (= a part/the dish)</i>
<i>This is an amazing drawing² by Leonardo. (= a picture)</i>	<i>My son is very good at drawing. (= the activity)</i>
<i>Someone threw a stone² at our window. (= one item)</i>	<i>The road crosses a flat landscape of scrub and stone. (= the material)</i>

¹ This applies to all drinks: *tea/a tea, cola/a cola, lemonade/a lemonade*

² Not all nouns of these types can be both countable and uncountable:

✗ *a beef, a mutton* ✓ *a duck/duck, a fish/fish, a lamb/lamb*
 ✗ *a(n) art, a poetry* ✓ *a painting/painting, a sculpture/sculpture*
 ✗ *a wool, a cotton* ✓ *a paper/paper, a rock/rock*

7 Quantifying uncountable nouns

We can use words like *piece* and *bit* to make some uncountable nouns countable:

The Council will remove two pieces of unwanted furniture if desired.

Other common nouns used in this way are: *a slice of bread/meat/cheese/cake; an item of news/furniture/clothing; a lump of sugar/coal; a cup of coffee/tea, a pair of trousers/jeans.*

We can sometimes make an uncountable noun countable to express 'different types' of the noun:

Our new skincare cream contains several essential oils.

This is a soft cheese from the Pyrenees.

We can use articles with uncountable abstract nouns to refer to a specific feeling:

distrust → a deep distrust, a distrust of lawyers love → an everlasting love, the love of music

When we use nouns in this way, we use a singular verb:

A love of fashion and music is common amongst teenagers.

Practice

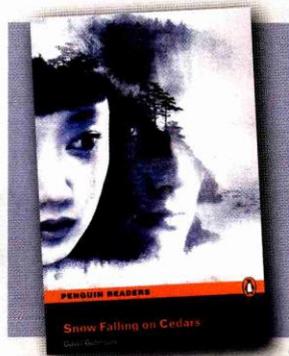
1 Complete sentences 1–10 with the correct form of a suitable verb. In sentences 11–15 add *a, an* or *no* article (-). If two answers are possible, put both.

- 1 Rickets a disease caused by a lack of vitamin D.
- 2 The 10,000 kilometres the longest walking competition in the Olympics.
- 3 Hollywood classic *The Women* showing at the London Film Festival this week.
- 4 Saudi Arabia, along with most of the oil-producing nations, voted to raise the price of crude oil again.
- 5 What he'd really like us to buy him for his birthday some new Nike trainers.
- 6 Roast beef and Yorkshire pudding definitely still the favourite of many British people!
- 7 My brother thinks that economics really interesting. I disagree.
- 8 That band always had a reputation for performing better in the studio than live.
- 9 Both my brother and sister lived in this town all their lives.
- 10 The local police interviewing several suspects in connection with the recent attacks.
- 11 I first felt the desire to visit Venice when looking at painting by Canaletto.
- 12 Where can I find information on late Renaissance Florentine artists?
- 13 There's nothing more delicious than lamb with mint sauce.
- 14 We developed passion for Baroque music at university.
- 15 It isn't a lack of courage that stops me taking part in extreme sports, it is anxiety about getting seriously injured.

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Choose the correct words in *italics>. If both options are possible, choose both.*

Snow Falling on Cedars

BY DAVID GUTERSON



This novel (0) *open* / *opens* in the courthouse of San Piedro, a small sleepy island off the Pacific coast of the north-west United States.

Underneath the courtroom windows, four tall narrow arches of (1) *leaded* / *a leaded* glass, (2) *drama* / *a drama* which will divide the island's communities (3) *is* / *are* unfolding. The defendant stands erect in the dock; the local press and the jurors await the start of this trial. Kabuo Miyamoto is accused of the murder of Carl Heine, a young fisherman. The alleged crime by a young man of Japanese descent stirs up the emotions of the islanders and questions their beliefs and their politics. It takes place in the 1950s – not many years (4) *has* / *have* passed since the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour and the horrors of World War II. Although the

Japanese on San Piedro (5) *was* / *were* eager to defend their adopted country against the country of their ancestors, a number of people in the community (6) *was* / *were* unable to forgive Japan its role in the war, and the trial causes their deeply-held prejudices to surface. 'Snow Falling on Cedars' (7) *is* / *are* not only one of the best mysteries of recent years, it also raises issues which affect us all. However, it ends with (8) *great* / *a great* optimism. David Guterson has succeeded in combining the best from both classic and populist American (9) *literatures* / *literature* into (10) *spellbinding* / *a spellbinding* work of art. Buy and read this beautiful novel.

- 3 Complete the sentences, using the words from the box. Use each word twice. Add an article or use the plural form if necessary.  2.02 Listen and check.

chair chicken drawing group love stone

- 1 Gerry threw into the pond and watched the water ripple outwards.
- 2 Who is going to be of the new finance committee?
- 3 Caleb owns a free-range farm so he allows his to run around wherever they like.
- 4 These days you don't have to be good at to be a successful artist.
- 5 Numerous of illegal immigrants have attempted to cross the border in the last few months.
- 6 Unfortunately for my waistline, I have of chocolate, especially in cakes!
- 7 For his art project, my son did of his pet rabbit.
- 8 We always have and chips on Monday nights.
- 9 The Tower of London is built of from Caen in Normandy.
- 10 They say is the strongest emotion.
- 11 Although we have a big dining table, we only have four
- 12 of university scientists is doing research into the causes of obesity in children.

- 4 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Find ten more mistakes in the advertisement and correct them.  2.03 Listen and check.

East Hamley
Adult Education Centre

ART CLASSES FOR ADULTS

~~Is~~
Are art your passion?
Are you interested in a drawing, painting or the sculpture?
Would you like to improve your knowledge and skills?
Would you like to experience deep sense of satisfaction you get from creating your own original work?

At East Hamley College a team of highly qualified tutors are available to help you improve your technique. We run art classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6.30 to 9.00. Each session costs £15 and lasts for two hours with a 30-minute break. We think you'll agree that £15 aren't a lot to pay for over two hours with the personal attention of our art teachers!

Both the painting and the sculpture classes takes place in the new annexe on Becton Road. This also has a relaxing café selling a coffee and a

range of snacks where you can take a break and socialise with your fellow students. You won't need to bring anything with you – we supply paint, papers and any other materials you need. But wear something that you don't mind covering in paint – a jeans and an old shirt is fine. Every year, the work of our students are exhibited in a local gallery. So, if you're lucky, your work might get spotted – you could be the next Damien Hirst!

For details and enrolment forms contact us on 0330 676750

Answers

MODULE 1 1 chair/chairwoman 2 it's 3 has
4 was 5 have 6 a stone 7 cheese/cheeses
8 sister-in-law's 9 mine 10 wife's expensive car
11 today's local paper 12 cheers of the crowd
13 computer's main component/main component
of the computer 14 Graham Greene's collection of
short stories 15 to eat 16 one 17 remembering
18 each other 19 you/one 20 something

UNIT 1

- 1** 1 is 2 is 3 is 4 has 5 are 6 is 7 is
8 has/have 9 have 10 are/have been
11 a 12 – 13 – 14 a 15 an
- 2** 1 leaded 2 a drama 3 is 4 have
5 were 6 were 7 is 8 great
9 literature 10 a spellbinding
- 3** 1 a stone 2 (the) chair 3 chickens
4 drawing 5 groups 6 a love
7 a drawing/drawings 8 chicken 9 stone
10 love 11 chairs 12 A group
- 4** ^{Is} ~~Are~~ art your passion?
Are you interested in a drawing, painting or ~~the~~
sculpture?
Would you like to improve your knowledge
and skills?
Would you like to experience ~~the~~ deep sense of
satisfaction you get from creating your own
original work?
At East Hamley College a team of highly-qualified
tutors ~~are is~~ available to help you improve your
technique. We run art classes on Tuesday and
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a lot to pay for over two hours with the personal
attention of our art teachers!
Both the painting and the sculpture classes ~~takes~~
~~take~~ place in the new annexe on Becton Road. This
also has a relaxing café selling a coffee and a range
of snacks where you can take a break and socialise
with your fellow students.
You won't need to bring anything with you – we
supply paint, ~~papers paper~~ and any other materials
you need. But wear something that you don't mind
covering in paint – a jeans and an old shirt is fine.
Every year, the work of our students ~~are is~~
exhibited in a local gallery. So, if you're lucky, your
work might get spotted – you could be the next
Damien Hirst!

Or you can write ... - jeans and an old shirt are fine.