



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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

A Trip to London by K S Sandhu

Banta and his wife Reeta live in Punjab, but they love travelling. Last April, they visited London for the first time. It was their dream holiday. They arrived on Monday 15 April and stayed for ten days.

On their first day, they went to the British Museum. It is one of the most famous museums in the world. There are thousands of paintings, statues, and objects from different countries. Banta said, "Look at this beautiful statue from Africa! And these old coins from Egypt!" Reeta took many photos. The museum is free, but they bought two postcards and a small guidebook in the shop.

After the museum, they felt hungry. They bought some bread, butter, cheese, and tea from a small supermarket. They sat in a park and had a picnic. Reeta said, "Shopping for food in London is fun, but the prices are high!" They also drank coffee and ate some cakes. Food and drink are important when you travel.

The next day was for shopping. They went to Oxford Street. There are hundreds of shops there. Banta needed new trousers because his old ones were too tight. He bought one pair of trousers and two pairs of shorts for the summer. Reeta liked jeans and tops. She said, "These jeans are nice, but my glasses are dirty. I need to clean them!" Her glasses were broken a little, so she bought a new pair of glasses later.

In the afternoon, they visited Covent Garden. It is a nice place with markets, street performers, and many cafés. They saw people doing gymnastics and dancing. Banta laughed, "Gymnastics looks difficult!" They bought some souvenirs: a red telephone box keyring, some chocolate, and a magnet with a picture of Big Ben.

On Friday, they went to see a famous exhibition at the British Museum again. There was a talk by Professor Grey, the author of a book called Tribal Art. The talk was about art from different cultures. Banta enjoyed it very much because he likes history and art. Reeta said, "This information is interesting, but politics and economics are not my subjects!"

They also tried some British activities. They went cycling in Hyde Park and did some swimming in the hotel pool. Swimming was relaxing after a busy day. In the evening, they watched the film Avatar on television in their room. Reeta loves films, and love stories make her happy.

Before they left London, they packed their luggage. It was heavy because of all the clothes, souvenirs, and presents. Banta said, "We have too much furniture... no, too much luggage!" They laughed.

At the airport, Reeta said, "London is wonderful. There are so many people, places, and ideas to see. I want to come back!" Banta agreed. Their holiday was full of fun, beauty, and new knowledge.

Nouns and articles

MODULE

1

Before you start

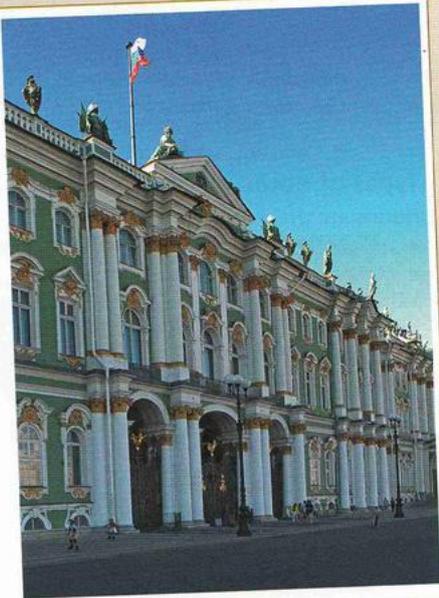
- 1 Read the guidebook page. Look at the highlighted grammar examples.

PLACES TO VISIT

This is the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. It has one of Europe's greatest art collections. The Hermitage was built in the eighteenth century; but in those days it wasn't an art gallery, it was a royal palace. The palace was used by the Tsars until the revolution of 1917. The building is now an enormous museum which contains art from many different countries, but mainly from Italy and France.

Lots of information is available from the website:
www.hermitagemuseum.org

For phone numbers and opening times turn to page 106.



- 2 Now read the sentences and choose the correct words in *italics*. The highlighted grammar examples will help you.

- 1 Most museums encourage *familys* / *families* to visit them. ➤ Unit 1
- 2 Did you visit any interesting museums in *asia* / *Asia*? ➤ Unit 1
- 3 'The tourist office gave me lots of advice.' 'Really? *Was it* / *Were they* useful?' ➤ Unit 1
- 4 Which kind of *art* / *the art* do you prefer – paintings or sculpture? ➤ Unit 2
- 5 We bought a sculpture and a painting from that gallery. *A* / *The* painting is in our living room. ➤ Unit 2
- 6 It's *a beautiful* / *beautiful* picture. ➤ Unit 3
- 7 There's a new exhibition at *National Gallery* / *the National Gallery*. ➤ Unit 4
- 8 The picture was painted in *sixteenth* / *the sixteenth* century. ➤ Unit 4
- 9 The best paintings are in *room* / *the room* 18. ➤ Unit 4
- 10 In *those* / *these* days the royal family lived in the palace. ➤ Unit 5

- 3 Check your answers below. Then go to the unit for more information and practice.

1 families 2 Asia 3 Was it 4 art 5 The 6 a beautiful
7 the National Gallery 8 the sixteenth 9 room 10 those

1 Nouns



Tourists enjoy shopping at the British Museum. There are lots of postcards and books for sale.

1 Types of noun

Nouns are the words we use for

- people, things and places: *a tourist, a postcard, a museum*
- activities, ideas and feelings: *shopping, information, love*

When nouns are names of people, places, dates, events, languages, religions and books, plays or films, they begin with a capital letter: *Professor Grey, the British Museum, Glasgow, Africa, Monday, April, May Day, Russian, Spanish, Islam, 'The Lord of the Rings', 'War and Peace', 'Avatar'*

Compound nouns, e.g. *bookshop, washing machine* ► Unit 98.1

2 Singular and plural nouns

Most nouns have a singular and plural form. To make plural forms

- add -s to most nouns: *books, postcards, days, houses*
- add -es to nouns ending in -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -o, -x and -z: *buses, dishes, watches, potatoes, boxes* (BUT *videos, pianos*)
- for nouns ending in consonant + -y: *country* → *countries*
- for most nouns ending in -f or -fe: *life* → *lives* *thief* → *thieves*

Spelling rules ► page 350

A few plural forms are irregular, and some nouns do not change:

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| SINGULAR | <i>man</i> | <i>woman</i> | <i>child</i> | <i>person</i> | <i>foot</i> | <i>tooth</i> |
| PLURAL | <i>men</i> | <i>women</i> | <i>children</i> | <i>people</i> | <i>feet</i> | <i>teeth</i> |
| SINGULAR AND PLURAL | <i>aircraft</i> | <i>series</i> | <i>fish</i> | <i>sheep</i> | | |

Pronunciation ► 1.02

3 Noun + verb

Some nouns end in -s but are singular, so we use a singular verb:

athletics economics gymnastics politics maths physics news

Athletics is an Olympic sport. Today's news isn't very exciting.

Some nouns describe things with two parts, so they are plural:

jeans pants pyjamas shorts tights trousers glasses scissors

These jeans are too tight. My glasses are broken.

To talk about one or more of these things we can use *pair(s) of*:
I need a pair of trousers and three pairs of shorts.

Some nouns (e.g. *company, family, government, team*) describe groups of people. We use a singular OR plural verb when we are talking about the people in the group: *The Spanish team **is/are** playing brilliantly.* (all the Spanish players)

But we only use the singular verb when we are talking about the group as one thing: *X A football team **have** eleven players. ✓ A football team **has** eleven players.*

British and American English ► page 352

- ⚠ The group noun *police* is ALWAYS plural:
*X The police **has** arrested the thieves. ✓ The police **have** arrested the thieves.*

4 Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable nouns are things we can count:

How many museums are there in Paris? There are 10,000 paintings in the Louvre.

Uncountable nouns are things we can't count.

- food and drink: *bread, butter, meat, tea, coffee, milk, oil, pasta, salt, rice*
- materials: *water, oil, air, oxygen, metal, cotton, wood, plastic, paper*
- school subjects and languages: *geography, art, music, English, Spanish*
- ideas and feelings: *education, work, advice, beauty, love, knowledge, fun*
- activities: *shopping, cycling, swimming*
- groups of similar things: *furniture, luggage, money*

| COUNTABLE NOUNS | UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS |
|--|---|
| have a singular and a plural form: <i>one shop → two shops</i> | don't normally have a plural form: <i>petrol → X two petrols ✓ some petrol</i> |
| We use a singular or plural verb: <i>That painting is beautiful.</i> <i>Those paintings were expensive.</i> | We only use a singular verb: <i>Swimming is a popular sport.</i> <i>That petrol was expensive.</i> |
| We use <i>a/an, the</i> or <i>this/that</i> before a singular noun: <i>Is there a museum here?</i> <i>Where's the museum?</i> <i>This museum is enormous!</i> | We don't use <i>a/an</i> before an uncountable noun. We can use <i>some</i> or <i>this/that</i> : <i>X This table is made of a plastic.</i> <i>✓ This table is made of plastic.</i> <i>X Can you give me an advice?</i> <i>✓ Can you give me some advice?</i> <i>This rice isn't cooked!</i> |
| We use words like <i>some, the, these/those</i> before a plural noun: <i>I'd like some apples, please.</i> <i>Those books look interesting.</i> | |

5 Nouns that can be countable or uncountable

| COUNTABLE MEANING | UNCOUNTABLE MEANING |
|--|--|
| <i>We keep six chickens in our garden.</i> (animals) | <i>Do you like chicken and rice?</i> (food) |
| <i>A coffee and two teas, please.</i> (cups of tea) | <i>Sam prefers lemon tea.</i> (drink) |
| <i>Did you get a paper today?</i> (a newspaper) | <i>I need some writing paper.</i> (material) |
| <i>Those were easy exercises.</i> (tasks) | <i>Do you do much exercise?</i> (physical activity) |
| <i>I had some interesting experiences on holiday.</i> (things that happened to me) | <i>Experience is more important than qualifications.</i> (learning by doing something) |
| <i>The gallery has two works by Goya.</i> (paintings) | <i>My work is really interesting.</i> (job) |

6 Ways of counting uncountable nouns

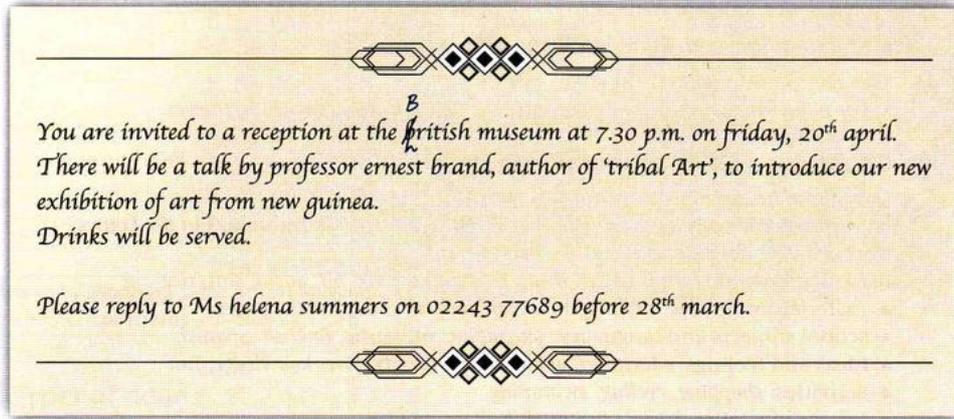
We use different expressions to 'count' some uncountable nouns.

- units: *a bar of soap, a bit of information/fun, an item of news, a loaf of bread, a piece of furniture/luggage/paper, a sheet of paper, a slice of bread/cake/meat*
- containers: *a bottle of water, a can/tin of soup, a carton of milk, a cup of coffee, a glass of orange juice, a jar of jam, a packet of sugar, a tub of butter/margarine, a tube of toothpaste*
- measurements: *half a kilo of meat, a litre of petrol, two metres of silk*

1 NOUNS

Practice

1 GRAMMAR IN USE Find twelve more capital letters missing from the invitation.



2 Write the plural form of the nouns.

car child ~~country~~ family house life loaf person potato series sheep watch

| + -s | + -es | + -ies | + -ves | no change | irregular |
|------|-------|------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|
| | | <i>countries</i> | | | |
| | | | | | |

3 Choose the correct words in italics. 2.02 Listen and check.

- 0 I can't read his writing. I think I need new *glass* / glasses.
- 1 How often do you brush your *tooth* / *teeth* ?
- 2 I think physics *is* / *are* the most difficult subject at college.
- 3 How many *aircrafts* / *aircraft* does British Airways own?
- 4 *Was* / *Were* the news interesting yesterday?
- 5 The police *is* / *are* trying to find the missing girl.
- 6 There are three *women* / *womans* and two men in the new medical team.
- 7 I like your new jeans. *Was it* / *Were they* expensive?
- 8 Do you have a *pair of* / *a* scissors in your kitchen?
- 9 Some farms in New Zealand have a million *sheep* / *sheeps*.
- 10 Our neighbours have six *childs* / *children*.

4 Match sentences 1 and 2 with A and B in each pair.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 0 1 I'd like some tea. | A And could I have two coffees, please? |
| 2 I'd like a tea. | B Could I have two packets of sugar, too? |
| 1 1 Can you get me some paper? | A I want to write a letter. |
| 2 Can you get me a paper? | B I want something to read. |
| 2 1 Do you have any chicken? | A There isn't any on the menu. |
| 2 Do you have any chickens? | B Or do you have only cows on your farm? |
| 3 1 You should try a skiing holiday. | A It will give you lots of experience. |
| 2 You should take that job. | B You will have a great experience. |
| 4 1 I need to do some exercise. | A I want to improve my grammar. |
| 2 I need to do some exercises. | B I want to get fit. |
| 5 1 I don't have a lot of work today. | A I'm not busy. |
| 2 I don't have many of his works. | B I'm not very keen on his books. |

5 GRAMMAR IN USE Choose the correct answer, A, B or C below.  2.03 Listen and check.

Subject Here in London

Hi Clara

I got to London two days ago. (0) arrived on time and I came into town on the Underground. My (1) heavy, so I didn't need to take a taxi. The hotel is OK. The furniture (2) a bit cheap, it's all made of (3); but the room is clean.

You know I love history and (4) Well, yesterday I went to the British Museum – it was amazing! I loved the Egyptian stone statues. They are huge and the stone (5) a beautiful red colour. The museum is fantastic! There's no charge to get in, so you don't need to spend a lot of (6) There's a nice café there and I had some coffee and two (7)

Now I need (8) from you about my camera ...

- 0 A Flight B Some flight C The flight
 1 A luggages weren't B luggage wasn't C luggages weren't
 2 A is B are C were
 3 A plastic B a plastic C the plastic
 4 A an archaeology B archaeology C the archaeology
 5 A are B were C is
 6 A money B moneys C the money
 7 A sandwiches B sandwichies C sandwiches
 8 A an advice B some advice C advices

6 Complete the descriptions with the words from the box.

a bar a bottle a can a ~~carton~~ a jar a packet a piece a slice a tub



0 ~~a carton~~ of milk



1 of soup



2 of water



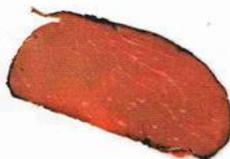
3 of soap



4 of jam



5 of furniture



6 of meat



7 of butter



8 of rice

Answers

1

You are invited to a reception at the **British Museum** at 7.30 p.m. on **Friday, 20th April**. There will be a talk by **Professor Ernest Brand**, author of **Tribal Art**, to introduce our new exhibition of art from **New Guinea**.

Drinks will be served.

Please reply to Ms **Helena Summers** on 02243 77689 before 28th **March**.

2

| + -s | + -es | + -ies | + -ves | no change | irregular |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>cars</i> | <i>potatoes</i> | <i>countries</i> | <i>lives</i> | <i>series</i> | <i>children</i> |
| <i>houses</i> | <i>watches</i> | <i>families</i> | <i>loaves</i> | <i>sheep</i> | <i>people</i> |

3 1 teeth 2 is 3 aircraft 4 Was 5 are 6 women
7 Were they 8 a pair of 9 sheep 10 children

4 1 1A 2B 2 1A 2B 3 1B 2A 4 1B 2A 5 1A 2B

5 1 B 2 A 3 A 4 B 5 C 6 A 7 C 8 B

6 1 a can of soup 2 a bottle of water
3 a bar of soap 4 a jar of jam
5 a piece of furniture 6 a slice of meat
7 a tub of butter 8 a packet of rice