

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 4 Lesson 2

Grammar

In this lesson you will learn

<i>Grammar: Articles and nouns Part 2 (Unit 76-81)</i>	<i>Completed</i>		<i>Your Score</i>
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	
❖ Unit 76: <i>the</i> 4 (<i>the giraffe / the telephone / the old</i> etc.)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 77: Names with and without <i>the</i> 1	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 78: Names with and without <i>the</i> 2	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 79: Singular and plural	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 80: Noun + noun (<i>a bus driver / a headache</i>)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 81: <i>-’s</i> (<i>your sister’s</i> name) and <i>of...</i> (the name <i>of the</i> book)	☐	☐	/

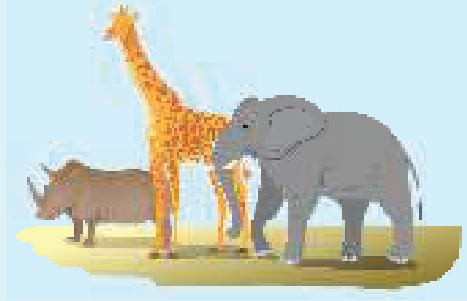
the 4 (the giraffe / the telephone / the old etc.)

A

Study these sentences:

- ☐ **The giraffe** is the tallest of all animals.
- ☐ **The bicycle** is an excellent means of transport.
- ☐ When was **the camera** invented?
- ☐ **The dollar** is the currency of the United States.

In these examples, **the** ... does not mean one specific thing.
The giraffe = a specific type of animal, not a specific giraffe.
 We use **the** ... in this way to talk about a type of animal, machine etc.



In the same way we use **the** for musical instruments:

- ☐ Can you play **the** guitar?
- ☐ **The** piano is my favourite instrument.

Compare **a** and **the**:

- ☐ I'd like to have **a piano**. *but* I can't play **the piano**.
- ☐ We saw **a giraffe** at the zoo. *but* **The giraffe** is my favourite animal.

Note that **man** (without **the**) = human beings in general, the human race:

- ☐ What do you know about the origins of **man**? (*not* the man)

B

the old, the rich etc.

We use **the** + *adjective* (without a noun) to talk about groups of people. For example:

the old	the rich	the homeless	the sick
the elderly	the poor	the unemployed	the injured

the old = old people, **the rich** = rich people etc. :

- ☐ Do you think **the rich** should pay higher taxes?
- ☐ We need to do more to help **the homeless**.

Note that we say: the **old** (*not* the olds), the **poor** (*not* the poors) etc.

The rich, the homeless etc. are *plural*. For one person, we say:

a rich man (*not* a rich) **a homeless person** (*not* a homeless)

C

the French, the Chinese etc.

We use **the** + a few nationality adjectives that end in **-ch** or **-sh**. For example:

the French the Dutch the British the English the Spanish

The meaning is *plural* – the people of that country.

- ☐ **The French** are famous for their food. (*not* French are ...)

We do not say 'a French' or 'an English' (*singular*). For example, we say:

- ☐ I met **a French woman** / **an English guy**.

We also use **the** + nationality words ending in **-ese** or **-ss**. For example:

the Chinese the Portuguese the Swiss

These words can also be singular (**a Chinese, a Swiss** etc.).

With other nationality words, the plural ends in **-s** (usually without **the**). For example:

an Italian → **Italians** a Mexican → **Mexicans** a Thai → **Thais**

- ☐ **Italians / Mexicans / Thais** are very friendly.

In all cases you can use *adjective* + **people**. For example, you can say:

- ☐ **French / Chinese / Mexican** people are very friendly.

Exercises

76.1 Answer the questions. Choose the right answer from the box. Don't forget **the**.

1

animals

tiger elephant
rabbit cheetah
giraffe kangaroo

2

birds

eagle penguin
swan owl
parrot pigeon

3

inventions

telephone wheel
telescope laser
helicopter typewriter

4

currencies

dollar peso
euro rupee
rouble yen

- 1 a Which of the animals is the tallest?
b Which animal can run the fastest?
c Which of these animals is found in Australia?
- 2 a Which of these birds has a long neck?
b Which of these birds cannot fly?
c Which bird flies at night?
- 3 a Which of these inventions is the oldest?
b Which one is the most recent?
c Which one was especially important for astronomy?
- 4 a What is the currency of India?
b What is the currency of Canada?
c And the currency of your country?

the giraffe

76.2 Put in **the** or **a**.

- 1 When was *the* telephone invented?
- 2 Can you play musical instrument?
- 3 Jessica plays violin in an orchestra.
- 4 There was piano in the corner of the room.
- 5 I wish I could play piano.
- 6 Our society is based on family.
- 7 Martin comes from large family.
- 8 computer has changed the way we live.
- 9 When was bicycle invented?
- 10 Do you have car?

76.3 Complete these sentences. Use **the** + adjective. Choose from:

elderly injured rich sick unemployed ~~young~~

- 1 *The young* have the future in their hands.
- 2 Helen is a nurse. She's spent her life caring for
- 3 Life is all right if you have a job, but things are hard for
- 4 Ambulances arrived at the scene of the accident and took to hospital.
- 5 More and more people are living longer. How are we going to care for?
- 6 It's nice to have lots of money, but have their problems too.

76.4 What do you call the people of these countries?

- | | <i>one person (a/an ...)</i> | <i>the people in general</i> |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Canada | <i>a Canadian</i> | <i>Canadians</i> |
| 2 Germany | | |
| 3 France | | |
| 4 Russia | | |
| 5 Japan | | |
| 6 Brazil | | |
| 7 England | | |
| 8 and your country | | |

Names with and without **the** 1

A

We do *not* use **the** with names of people ('Helen', 'Helen Taylor' etc.). In the same way, we do *not* use **the** with most names of places. For example:

continents
countries, states etc.
islands
cities, towns etc.
mountains

Africa (*not the Africa*), **South America**
France (*not the France*), **Japan**, **Texas**
Sicily, **Tasmania**
Cairo, **Bangkok**
Everest, **Kilimanjaro**



But we normally use **the** in names with **Republic**, **Kingdom**, **States** etc. :

the Czech **Republic** **the** United **Kingdom** (**the** UK)
the Dominican **Republic** **the** United **States** of America (**the** USA)

Compare:

☐ Have you been to **Canada** or **the United States**?

B

When we use **Mr/Ms/Captain/Doctor** etc. + a name, we do not use **the**. So we say:

Mr Johnson / **Doctor** Johnson / **Captain** Johnson / **President** Johnson etc. (*not the ...*)
Uncle Robert / **Saint** Catherine / **Queen** Catherine etc. (*not the ...*)

Compare:

☐ We called **the doctor**.
We called **Doctor** Johnson. (*not the Doctor Johnson*)

We use **Mount** (= mountain) and **Lake** before a name in the same way (without **the**):

Mount Everest (*not the ...*) **Mount** Etna **Lake** Superior **Lake** Victoria

☐ They live near **the lake**.
They live near **Lake Superior**. (*not the Lake Superior*)

C

We use **the** with the names of oceans, seas, rivers and canals:

the Atlantic (Ocean) **the** Red Sea **the** Amazon
the Indian Ocean **the** Channel (between France and Britain) **the** Nile
the Mediterranean (Sea) **the** Suez Canal

We use **the** with the names of deserts:

the Sahara (Desert) **the** Gobi Desert

D

We use **the** with *plural* names of people and places:

people
countries
groups of islands
mountain ranges

the Taylors (= the Taylor family), **the** Johnsons
the Netherlands, **the** Philippines, **the** United States
the Canaries (*or the* Canary Islands), **the** Bahamas
the Andes, **the** Alps, **the** Urals

☐ The highest mountain in **the Andes** is (Mount) Aconcagua.

E

We say:

the north (of Brazil) *but* **northern** Brazil (*without the*)
the southeast (of Spain) *but* **southeastern** Spain

Compare:

☐ Sweden is in **northern Europe**; Spain is in **the south**.

We also use **north/south** etc. (*without the*) in the names of some regions and countries:

North America **South Africa** **southeast Asia**

Note that on maps, **the** is not usually included in the name.

Exercises

77.1 Which is right?

- 1 Who is Doctor Johnson / the Doctor Johnson? (Doctor Johnson is correct)
- 2 I was ill. Doctor / The doctor told me to rest for a few days.
- 3 Doctor Thomas / The Doctor Thomas is an expert on heart disease.
- 4 I'm looking for Professor Brown / the Professor Brown. Do you know where she is?
- 5 In the United States, President / the President is elected for four years.
- 6 President Kennedy / The President Kennedy was assassinated in 1963.
- 7 The officer I spoke to at the police station was Inspector Roberts / the Inspector Roberts.
- 8 Do you know Wilsons / the Wilsons? They're a very nice couple.
- 9 Julia spent three years as a student in United States / the United States.
- 10 France / The France has a population of about 66 million.

77.2 Some of these sentences are OK, but some need **the** (sometimes more than once). Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 Everest was first climbed in 1953.
- 2 Milan and Turin are cities in north of Italy.
- 3 Africa is much larger than Europe.
- 4 Last year I visited Mexico and United States.
- 5 Southern England is warmer than north.
- 6 Thailand and Cambodia are in southeast Asia.
- 7 Chicago is on Lake Michigan.
- 8 Next year we're going skiing in Swiss Alps.
- 9 UK consists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- 10 Seychelles are a group of islands in Indian Ocean.
- 11 I've never been to South Africa.
- 12 River Volga flows into Caspian Sea.

OK

in the north of Italy

77.3 Here are some geography questions. Choose the right answer from one of the boxes and use **the** if necessary. You do not need all the names in the boxes.

continents	countries	oceans and seas	mountains	rivers and canals
Africa	Canada	Atlantic	Alps	Amazon Rhine
Asia	Denmark	Indian Ocean	Andes	Danube Thames
Australia	Indonesia	Pacific	Himalayas	Nile Volga
Europe	Sweden	Black Sea	Rockies	Suez Canal
North America	Thailand	Mediterranean	Urals	Panama Canal
South America	United States	Red Sea		

- 1 What do you have to cross to travel from Europe to America? the Atlantic
- 2 Where is Argentina?
- 3 Which is the longest river in Africa?
- 4 Of which country is Stockholm the capital?
- 5 Of which country is Washington the capital?
- 6 What is the name of the mountain range in the west of North America?
- 7 What is the name of the sea between Africa and Europe?
- 8 Which is the smallest continent in the world?
- 9 What is the name of the ocean between North America and Asia?
- 10 What is the name of the ocean between Africa and Australia?
- 11 Which river flows through London?
- 12 Which river flows through Vienna, Budapest and Belgrade?
- 13 Of which country is Bangkok the capital?
- 14 What joins the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans?
- 15 Which is the longest river in South America?

Names with and without **the** 2**A** Names without **the**

We do not use **the** with names of most city streets/roads/squares/parks etc. :

Union Street (*not the ...*)
Abbey Road

Fifth Avenue
Broadway

Hyde Park
Times Square

Names of many public buildings and institutions (airports, stations, universities etc.), and also some geographical names, are two words:

Manchester Airport

Harvard University

The first word is the name of a place ('Manchester') or a person ('Harvard'). These names are usually without **the**. In the same way, we say:

Victoria Station (*not the ...*)
Buckingham Palace

Canterbury Cathedral
Cambridge University

Edinburgh Castle
Sydney Harbour

Compare:

Buckingham Palace (*not the ...*) *but* **the Royal Palace**
(*'Royal'* is an adjective – it is not a name like *'Buckingham'*.)

B Most other buildings have names with **the**. For example:

<i>hotels</i>	the Sheraton Hotel, the Holiday Inn
<i>theatres/cinemas</i>	the Palace Theatre, the Odeon (cinema)
<i>museums</i>	the Guggenheim Museum, the National Gallery
<i>other buildings</i>	the Empire State (Building), the White House, the Eiffel Tower

We often leave out the noun:

the Sheraton (Hotel)

the Palace (Theatre)

the Guggenheim (Museum)

Some names are only **the** + *noun*, for example:

the Acropolis

the Kremlin

the Pentagon

C Names with **of** usually have **the**. For example:

the Bank **of** England

the Museum **of** Modern Art

the Great Wall **of** China

the Tower **of** London

Note that we say:

the University **of** Cambridge *but* **Cambridge University** (*without the*)

D Many shops, restaurants, hotels etc. are named after people. These names end in **-s** or **-s**. We do not use **the** with these names:

McDonald's (*not the ...*)

Barclays (bank)

Joe's Diner (restaurant)

Macy's (department store)

Churches are often named after saints (St = Saint):

St John's Church (*not the ...*)

St Patrick's Cathedral

E Most newspapers and many organisations have names with **the**:

the Washington Post

the Financial Times

the Sun (newspaper)

the European Union

the BBC

the Red Cross

Names of companies, airlines etc. are usually without **the**:

Fiat (*not the Fiat*)

Sony

Singapore Airlines

Kodak

IBM

Yale University Press

Exercises

- 78.1** Use the map to answer the questions. Write the name of the place and the street it is in. Use **the** if necessary. (Remember that on maps we do not normally use **the**.)



- 1 Is there a cinema near here?
- 2 Is there a supermarket near here?
- 3 Is there a hotel near here?
- 4 Is there a church near here?
- 5 Is there a museum near here?
- 6 Is there a bookshop near here?
- 7 Is there a restaurant near here?
- 8 Is there a park near here?

Yes, the Odeon in Market Street.

Yes, in

Yes, in

Yes,

Yes,

Yes,

Yes, at the end of

- 78.2** Where are the following? Use **the** where necessary.

Acropolis
Kremlin

Broadway
White House

Buckingham Palace
Gatwick Airport

Eiffel Tower
Times Square

- 1 Times Square is in New York.
- 2 is in Paris.
- 3 is in London.
- 4 is in Washington.
- 5 is in Moscow.
- 6 is in New York.
- 7 is in Athens.
- 8 is near London.

- 78.3** Which is right?

- 1 Have you ever been to Science Museum / the Science Museum? (the Science Museum is correct)
- 2 Many tourists in London visit St Paul's Cathedral / the St Paul's Cathedral.
- 3 The biggest park in New York is Central Park / The Central Park.
- 4 I'd like to go to China and see Great Wall / the Great Wall.
- 5 Dublin Airport / The Dublin Airport is situated about 12 kilometres from the city centre.
- 6 'Which cinema are we going to this evening?' 'Classic / The Classic.'
- 7 Jack is a student at Liverpool University / the Liverpool University.
- 8 You should go to National Museum / the National Museum. It's very interesting.
- 9 If you're looking for a department store, I would recommend Harrison's / the Harrison's.
- 10 Andy is a flight attendant. He works for Cathay Pacific / the Cathay Pacific.
- 11 'Which newspaper do you want?' 'Morning News / The Morning News.'
- 12 We went to Italy and saw Leaning Tower / the Leaning Tower of Pisa.
- 13 This book is published by Cambridge University Press / the Cambridge University Press.
- 14 The building across the street is College of Art / the College of Art.
- 15 Imperial Hotel / The Imperial Hotel is in Baker Street / the Baker Street.
- 16 Statue of Liberty / The Statue of Liberty is at the entrance to New York Harbor / the New York Harbor.

Singular and plural

A

Sometimes we use a *plural* noun for one thing that has two parts. For example:

				
trousers (<i>two legs</i>) also jeans/tights/shorts/pants	pyjamas (<i>top and bottom</i>)	glasses	binoculars	scissors

These words are plural, so they take a plural verb:

- ☐ My trousers **are** too long. (*not* My trousers *is*)

You can also use **a pair of** + these words:

- ☐ **Those are** nice **jeans**. *or* That's **a nice pair of** jeans. (*not* a nice jeans)
☐ I need **some** new **glasses**. *or* I need **a new pair of** glasses.

B

Some nouns end in **-ics**, but are not usually plural. For example:

athletics gymnastics economics politics
physics electronics maths (= mathematics)

- ☐ **Gymnastics is** my favourite sport. (*not* Gymnastics *are*)

News is not plural (see Unit 70B):

- ☐ I have **some news** for you. **It's** good news!

Some words that end in **-s** can be singular or plural. For example:

means a means of transport **many means** of transport
series a TV series **two TV series**
species a species of fish **200 species** of fish

C

Some singular nouns are often used with a plural verb. For example:

audience committee company family firm government staff team

These nouns are all groups of people. We often think of them as a number of people (= they), not as one thing (= it). So we often use a plural verb:

- ☐ **The government** (= they) **have decided** to increase taxes.
☐ **The staff** at the company (= they) **are** not happy with **their** working conditions.

In the same way, we often use a plural verb after the name of a company or a sports team:

- ☐ **Shell have** increased the price of petrol.
☐ **Italy are** playing Brazil next Sunday (in a football match).

You can also use a singular verb (The government **wants** ... / Shell **has** ... etc.).

We use a plural verb with **police**:

- ☐ **The police are** investigating the crime, but **haven't** arrested anyone yet.
(not The police *is* ... *hasn't*)

Note that we say **a police officer** / **a policeman** / **a policewoman** (*not* a police).

D

We do not often use the plural of **person** ('persons'). We normally use **people** (a *plural* word):

- ☐ He's **a nice person**. *but* They are nice **people**. (*not* nice persons)
☐ **Many people don't** have enough to eat. (*not* Many people *doesn't*)

E

We think of a sum of money, a period of time, a distance etc. as *one* thing. So we use a singular verb:

- ☐ **Fifty thousand pounds** (= it) **was** stolen in the robbery. (*not* were stolen)
☐ **Three years** (= it) **is** a long time to be without a job. (*not* Three years *are*)
☐ **Two miles isn't** very far to walk.

Exercises

79.1 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box.

- 1 My eyesight is getting worse. I need glasses.
- 2 The trousers you bought for me fit me.
- 3 The jacket you bought for me fit me.
- 4 I need scissors to cut this piece of material.
- 5 I can't find my binoculars. Have you seen?
- 6 I went shopping and bought a of jeans.
- 7 Where my sunglasses?
- 8 I went shopping and bought pair of pyjamas.
- 9 I don't know much about politics. I'm not interested in

a
are
them
doesn't
pair
it
~~glasses~~
some
don't

79.2 Complete the sentences. Use a word from section B (news, series etc.).

- 1 'Have you heard the news?' 'No. What's happened?'
- 2 The bicycle is a of transport.
- 3 A lot of American TV are shown in other countries.
- 4 The tiger is an endangered
- 5 There will be a of meetings to discuss the problem.
- 6 Fortunately the wasn't as bad as we expected.
- 7 How many of bird are there in the world?
- 8 I didn't have my phone, so I had no of contacting you.

79.3 Choose the correct form of the verb, singular or plural. In three sentences either the singular or plural verb is possible.

- 1 Gymnastics is / ~~are~~ my favourite sport. (is is correct)
- 2 My new glasses doesn't / don't fit very well.
- 3 The police want / wants to interview two men about the robbery.
- 4 Physics was / were my favourite subject at school.
- 5 It's a nice place to visit. The people is / are very friendly.
- 6 Germany is / are playing Spain tomorrow night. Are you going to watch it?
- 7 Does / Do the police know how the accident happened?
- 8 Where do / does your family live?
- 9 Most people enjoy / enjoys music.
- 10 I like this cafe. The staff here is / are really friendly and efficient.

79.4 Complete the sentences. Use **is** or **isn't**, and choose from the box.

- 1 Three years is a long time to be without a job.
- 2 Thirty degrees for Tom. He doesn't like hot weather.
- 3 Ten dollars We need more than that.
- 4 Four days for a holiday. You need at least a week.
- 5 Twenty kilos Are you sure you can manage?

a lot to carry
enough money
too hot
long enough
~~a long time~~

79.5 Are these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Three years are a long time to be without a job. Three years is a long time
- 2 The committee want to change the rules of the club. OK (wants is also correct)
- 3 Susan was wearing a black jeans.
- 4 I like Martin and Jane. They're very nice persons.
- 5 I'm going to buy some new pyjamas.
- 6 There was a police directing traffic in the street.
- 7 This scissors isn't very sharp.
- 8 The company have decided to open a new factory.
- 9 This plant is very rare species.
- 10 Twelve hours are a long time to be on a plane.

Noun + noun (a **bus driver** / a **headache**)

A You can use two nouns together (*noun + noun*) to mean *one* thing/person/idea etc. :
a **bus driver** **income tax** the **city centre** an **apple tree**

The first noun is like an adjective. It tells us what kind of thing/person/idea etc. :

a **bus driver** = the driver of a bus
income tax = tax that you pay on your income
 the **city centre** = the centre of the city
 an **apple tree** = a tree that has apples
 a **Paris hotel** = a hotel in Paris
 my **life story** = the story of my life

So you can say:

a **television** camera a **television** programme a **television** studio a **television** producer
 (things or people to do with television)
 language **problems** marriage **problems** health **problems** work **problems**
 (different kinds of problems)

Sometimes the first word ends in **-ing**:

a **frying** pan (= a pan for frying)
 a **washing** machine
 a **swimming** pool

B Sometimes there are more than two nouns together:

- ☐ I waited at the **hotel reception desk**.
- ☐ We watched the **World Swimming Championships** on TV.
- ☐ If you want to play table tennis (= a game), you need a **table tennis table** (= a table).

C When two nouns are together like this, sometimes we write them as one word and sometimes as two separate words. For example:

a **headache** **toothpaste** a **weekend** a **car park** a **road sign**

There are no clear rules for this. If you are not sure, write two words.

D Note the difference between:

a **coffee cup** (maybe empty) and a **cup of coffee** (= a cup with coffee in it)
 a **shopping bag** (maybe empty) and a **bag of shopping** (= a bag full of shopping)

E When we use *noun + noun*, the first noun is like an *adjective*. It is normally singular, but the meaning is often plural.

For example: a **car park** is a place to park **cars**, an **apple tree** is a tree that has **apples**.

In the same way we say:

a **three-hour** journey (= a journey that takes three **hours**)
 a **ten-pound** note (= a note with the value of ten **pounds**)
 a **four-week** course
 a **six-mile** walk
 two **14-year-old** girls

Compare:

☐ It was a **four-week** course. (*not* a four weeks course)
 but The course lasted four **weeks**.

Exercises

80.1 What do we call these things and people?

- 1 Someone who drives a bus is a bus driver
- 2 Problems concerning health are health problems
- 3 A ticket to travel by train is a
- 4 A machine you use to get a ticket is a
- 5 The staff at a hotel are the
- 6 The results of your exams are your
- 7 A horse that runs in races is a
- 8 A race for horses is a
- 9 Shoes for running are
- 10 A shop that sells shoes is a
- 11 The window of a shop is a
- 12 A person who cleans windows is a
- 13 A scandal involving a construction company is
- 14 Workers at a car factory are
- 15 A scheme for the improvement of a road is a
- 16 A department store in New York is a

80.2 Answer the questions using two of the following words each time:

accident	belt	birthday	card	credit	driver
forecast	machine	number	party	ring	road
room	seat	truck	washing	weather	wedding

- 1 This could be caused by bad driving. a road accident
- 2 You should wear this when you're driving. a
- 3 You can use this to pay for things. a
- 4 This will tell you if it's going to rain or not. the
- 5 This is useful if you have a lot of dirty clothes. a
- 6 This is something you might wear if you're married. a
- 7 If you're staying at a hotel, you need to remember this. your
- 8 This is a way to celebrate getting older. a
- 9 This person transports things by road. a

80.3 Put the words in the right order.

- 1 I spilt coffee on the living room carpet. (room / carpet / living)
- 2 Jack likes sport. He plays for his (team / school / football)
- 3 Anna works for a (company / production / film)
- 4 Many people invest in a (life / policy / insurance)
- 5 You can get a map at the (information / office / tourist)

80.4 Which is correct?

- 1 It's quite a big book. There are more than 500 page / 500 pages. (500 pages is correct)
- 2 It's only a two-hour / two hours flight from London to Madrid.
- 3 It took only two hour / two hours to fly to Madrid.
- 4 I don't have any change. I only have a twenty-pound / twenty pounds note.
- 5 I looked down and there were two ten-pound / ten pounds notes on the ground.
- 6 At work in the morning we usually have a 15-minute / 15 minutes break for coffee.
- 7 There are 60-minute / 60 minutes in an hour.
- 8 My office is on the tenth floor of a twelve-storey / twelve storeys building.
- 9 I work five-day / five days a week. Saturday and Sunday are free.
- 10 Five-star / Five stars hotels are the most expensive.
- 11 Sam's daughter is six-year-old / six years old.
- 12 Sam has a six-year-old / six-years-old daughter.

's (your sister's name) and of ... (the name of the book)

A

We use **-s** (*apostrophe + s*) mostly for people or animals:

- ☐ **Tom's** computer isn't working. (*not* the computer of Tom)
- ☐ How old are **Chris's** children? (*not* the children of Chris)
- ☐ What's (= What is) **your sister's** name?
- ☐ What's **Tom's sister's** name?
- ☐ Be careful. Don't step on **the cat's** tail.

You can use **-s** without a noun after it:

- ☐ This isn't my book. It's **my sister's**. (= my sister's book)

We do not use **-s** after a long group of words. So we say:

my friend's mother

but the mother **of the man we met yesterday** (*not* the man we met yesterday's mother)

Note that we say **a woman's hat** (= a hat for a woman), **a boy's name** (= a name for a boy), **a bird's egg** (= an egg laid by a bird) etc.

B

With a *singular* noun we use **-s**:

my **sister's** room (= **her** room – *one sister*)

Mr Carter's house (= **his** house)

With a *plural* noun (sisters, friends etc.) we put an apostrophe (') after **s**:

my sisters' room (= **their** room – *two or more sisters*)

the Carters' house (= **their** house – *Mr and Mrs Carter*)

If a plural noun does not end in **-s** (for example **men/women/children/people**) we use **-s**:

the **men's** changing room a **children's** book (= a book for children)

You can use **-s** after more than one noun:

Jack and Karen's children **Mr and Mrs Carter's** house

C

For things, ideas etc., we normally use **of**:

the temperature **of the water** (*not* the water's temperature)

the name **of the book** the owner **of the restaurant**

We say **the beginning/end/middle of ... / the top/bottom of ... / the front/back/side of ...**:

the beginning of the month (*not* the month's beginning)

the top of the hill **the back of** the car

D

You can usually use **-s** or **of ...** for an organisation (= a group of people). So you can say:

the government's decision *or* the decision **of the government**

the company's success *or* the success **of the company**

We also use **-s** for places. So you can say:

the city's streets **the world's** population **Italy's** prime minister

E

We use **-s** with time words (**yesterday / next week** etc.):

- ☐ Do you still have **yesterday's** newspaper?
- ☐ **Next week's** meeting has been cancelled.

In the same way, you can say **today's / tomorrow's / this evening's / Monday's** etc.

We also use **-s** (or **-s'** with plural words) with periods of time:

- ☐ I've got **a week's holiday** starting on Monday.
- ☐ Julia has got **three weeks' holiday**.
- ☐ I live near the station – it's only **ten minutes' walk**.

Exercises

81.1 In some of these sentences, it is more natural to use **-s** or **'s**. Change the underlined parts where necessary.

- 1 Who is the owner of this restaurant? OK
- 2 How old are the children of Chris? Chris's children
- 3 Is this the umbrella of your friend?
- 4 Write your name at the top of the page.
- 5 I've never met the daughter of James.
- 6 How old is the son of Helen and Andy?
- 7 We don't know the cause of the problem.
- 8 I don't know the words of this song.
- 9 The friends of your children are here.
- 10 What is the cost of a new washing machine?
- 11 The garden of our neighbours is very small.
- 12 The hair of David is very long.
- 13 I work on the ground floor of the building.
- 14 I couldn't go to the party of my best friend.
- 15 George is the brother of somebody I knew at college.
- 16 Have you seen the car of the parents of Ben?
- 17 What is the meaning of this expression?
- 18 Do you agree with the policy of the government?

81.2 Which is right?

- 1 Don't step on the cat's tail. (cat / cat's / cats')
- 2 It's my birthday tomorrow. (father / father's / fathers')
- 3 Those look nice. Shall we buy some? (apples / apple's / apples')
- 4 clothes are expensive. (Children / Children's / Childrens')
- 5 Zurich is largest city. (Switzerland / Switzerland's / Switzerlands')
- 6 Your parents are your grandparents. (parents / parent's / parents')
- 7 I took a lot of when I was on holiday. (photos / photo's / photos')
- 8 This isn't my coat. It's (someone else / someone else's / someone elses')
- 9 Have you read any of poems? (Shakespeare / Shakespeare's / Shakespeares')

81.3 Read each sentence and write a new sentence beginning with the underlined words.

- 1 The meeting tomorrow has been cancelled.
Tomorrow's meeting has been cancelled.
- 2 The storm last week caused a lot of damage.
Last
- 3 The only cinema in the town has closed down.
The
- 4 The weather in Britain is very changeable.
.....
- 5 Tourism is the main industry in the region.
.....

81.4 Use the information given to complete the sentences.

- 1 If I leave my house at 9 o'clock and drive to the airport, I arrive at about 11.
So it's about two hours' drive from my house to the airport. (drive)
- 2 If I leave my house at 8.40 and walk to the centre, I get there at 9 o'clock.
So it's from my house to the centre. (walk)
- 3 I'm going on holiday on the 12th. I have to be back at work on the 26th.
So I've got (holiday)
- 4 I went to sleep at 3 o'clock this morning and woke up an hour later. After that I couldn't sleep.
So last night I only had (sleep)