

Adrian Wallwork

English for Academic Research: Grammar Exercises

Second Edition

English for Academic Research

Series Editor

Adrian Wallwork, English for Academics, Pisa, Italy

This series aims to help non-native, English-speaking researchers communicate in English. The books in this series are designed like manuals or user guides to help readers find relevant information quickly, and assimilate it rapidly and effectively. The author has divided each book into short subsections of short paragraphs with many bullet points.

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 Springer

Adrian Wallwork
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Chapter 1: Nouns: plurals, countable versus uncountable, etc



1.1 verb agreement

1. Of these papers, less than a half **deals / deal** with this issue.
2. A number of authors **has / have** claimed that $x = y$.
3. The number of publications per year **is / are** reported in Table 3.
4. The majority of articles only **covers / cover** marginal issues.
5. This group of tables **contains / contain** all the relevant results.
6. Ten kilos **is / are** enough to ensure a good performance.
7. Several thousand dollars **is / are** required.
8. People **is / are** stranger than animals.
9. The police **is / are** present in heavy numbers.
10. Fifty per cent **is / are** certainly a good rate.
11. A variety of articles **has / have** investigated this business sector.
12. None of the instruments **work / works**.
13. There **is / are** a bathroom and a bedroom.
14. Both clinical and neuropathological evidence **shows / show** that these symptoms are...

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1. deal | 8. are |
| 2. have | 9. are |
| 3. is | 10. is |
| 4. cover | 11. have |
| 5. contains | 12. work |
| 6. is (are) | 13. is |
| 7. are | 14. shows (show) |

1.2 uncountable nouns 1

Complete the table. Example: Yes (Y): some traffic, a bit of traffic No (N): a traffic, every traffic, a piece of traffic.

	A / AN	SOME	EACH / EVERY	A PIECE OF	A BIT OF
traffic	N	Y	N	N	Y
advertising					
blood					
earth					
electricity					
good					
heat					
luck					
machinery					
news					
progress					
smog					
trouble					

	A / AN	SOME	EACH / EVERY	A PIECE OF	A BIT OF
advertising	N	Y	N	N	Y
blood	N	Y	N	N	Y
earth	N	Y	N	Y	Y
electricity	N	Y	N	N	Y
gold	N	Y	N	Y	Y
heat	N	Y	N	N	Y
luck	N	Y	N	N	Y
machinery	N	Y	N	Y	Y
news	N	Y	N	Y	Y
progress	N	Y	N	N	Y
smog	N	Y	N	N	Y
stone	N	Y	N	Y	Y
trouble	N	Y	N	N	Y

1.3 uncountable nouns 2

The following sentences contain mistakes regarding uncountable nouns that have mistakenly been used as if they were countable. Identify the mistakes and correct them.

1. Such feedbacks are vital when analyzing the queries.
2. The time depends on the efficiency of each equipment and the number of equipments.
3. Several software packages were developed with many attentions to eradicating all bugs. However, in several situations, the results obtained from these softwares are still erroneous.
4. Special hardwares are required in some situations.
5. Many informations on the structure and function are being gathered.
6. This causes many traffics on the network.
7. There are few knowledge about the best way to do this.
8. These researches have achieved many progresses in this field.
9. I owe you ten dollar, I will give you them on Monday.
10. All patients gave a written consent to the tests.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. feedback is | 6. a lot of traffic |
| 2. each piece of equipment, the amount of equipment | 7. is little knowledge |
| 3. much attention, this software is | 8. this research has achieved much progress |
| 4. hardware is | 9. ten dollars... give you it |
| 5. much information / a lot of information | 10. gave (their) written consent |

1.4 uncountable nouns 3

The following sentences contain mistakes regarding uncountable nouns that have mistakenly been used as if they were countable. Identify the mistakes and correct them.

1. As far as we know, there has only been one research in this field.
2. These money are collected once a month.
3. This may be an evidence for astrologists.
4. About 60% of the feedbacks were negative.
5. Several informations are now available.
6. The earthquake caused few damages and no fatalities.
7. Garbages represent a big problem in the process of urbanization.
In fact they cause.
8. They did a training during the course.
9. She was the only child of a blind father (he was struck by a lightning) and a mother who died of a cancer when she was a teenager.
10. The sheeps appeared to be in a good health and gained weight like the normal control sheeps.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. one piece of research | 6. little damage |
| 2. this money is | 7. garbage represents... it causes |
| 3. be [some] evidence | 8. some training / a training course |
| 4. feedback was | 9. by lightning... of cancer |
| 5. much information is | 10. sheep... sheep |

Chapter 2: Genitive: the possessive form of nouns



2.1 authors, theories, companies, products

Underline the correct form. If both are correct, underline both.

1. **Yin / Yin's** paper was the first to...
2. **Yin's et al. / Yin et al's** paper was the first to...
3. **Jones / Jones's / Jones'** most recent investigation into...
4. We have addressed all the **referee / referee's / referees'** requests.
5. **A Boolean / Boolean's** operator may refer to one of the following...
6. In our work **Fourier / Fourier's** analysis was used to derive the...
7. They used a **Turing / Turing's** machine simulation to obtain their result.
8. **A Turing / Turing's** machine is a device that...
9. **Turing / Turing's / The Turing's** original thesis was that... He then went on to reformulate this thesis by...
10. **Beer / The Beer's / Beer's** findings, together with those of Johann Heinrich Lambert, make up **Beer-Lambert / the Beer-Lambert / Beer-Lambert's** law.
11. Physicist Stephen **Hawking / Hawking's** early career was...
12. We used an **Apple / Apple's** G6 Powerbook laptop running LION to...
13. **Apple / Apple's / The Apple's** initial decision to make iPods solely compatible with iTunes caused...
14. **The iPad / iPad's** potential for education has been investigated...
15. **The Thatcher / Thatcher / Thatcher's** administration caused tremendous...

1. Yin's
2. Yin et al's
3. Jones's
4. referees'
5. Boolean
6. Fourier
7. Turing
8. Turing
9. Turing's
10. Beer's, the Beer-Lambert
11. Hawking's
12. Apple
13. Apple's
14. iPad's
15. the Thatcher / Thatcher's

2.2 various 1

Select the correct form (a or b).

1. How do you measure (a) a circle's area (b) the area of a circle?
2. I have just been studying (a) the fundamental theorem of integral calculus (b) the integral calculus fundamental theorem.
3. I think that (a) the sum of the angles of a triangle is... (b) the triangle angles sum is...
4. Let us look at (a) Pascal's hexagon theorem (b) Pascal hexagon theorem (c) the Pascal's hexagon theorem.
5. I think that (a) the last theorem of Fermat was... (b) Fermat's last theorem was... (c) the Fermat last theorem was...
6. Have you ever studied (a) the binomial theory (b) the binomial's theory (c) the binomials theory.
7. Can you explain the (a) large numbers law to me (b) the law of large numbers to me?
8. I studied at (a) Harvard's university (b) Harvard University (c) the University of Harvard (d) the Harvard University.
9. The area of (a) the box's base. (b) the base of the box.
10. The size of (a) the function's parabola. (b) the parabola of the function.
11. (a) The solution to our problem may be stated as... (b) Our problem's solution may be stated as...
12. As a *heading* (a) The problem's definition. (b) Defining the Problem (c) The problem definition (d) Definition of the Problem
13. This is (a) a China law (b) a Chinese law (c) a law in China (d) a China's law.
14. I have (a) a computer's problem (b) a computer problem (c) a problem with my computer.
15. The (a) best solution to the problem (b) problem's best solution (c) problem's best solution.

(1) b

(9) b (a)

(2) a

(10) b

(3) a

(11) a

(4) a

(12) b and d

(5) b

(13) b and c

(6) a

(14) c

(7) b

(15) a

(8) b and c

2.3 various 2

1. **IBM's / IBM** first computer.
2. **Gates's / Gates'** philosophy.
3. **Burger and Wilmar's / Burger's and Wilmar's** document.
4. The **Koreans's / Koreans'** plans for the future.
5. These are the results of ten **year's / years' / year** studying, which was divided into two five-**year / years / years'** periods.
6. A **mile's / mile** walk.
7. I am on a six **month / month's** sabbatical.
8. I'm taking six **month / month's** sabbatical next year.
9. The number of **cancer / cancer's** cases is increasing.
10. **Cancer / Cancer's** principal health hazard is the ability of malignant tumors to invade.
11. Such patients do not tolerate **goat / goat's** milk or cheese.
12. We analysed the function of **goat / goat's** milk and its products in nutrition.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. IBM's | 7. month |
| 2. Bill Gates's | 8. month's |
| 3. Burger and Wilmar's | 9. cancer |
| 4. Koreans' | 10. cancer's |
| 5. years'... year | 11. goat / goat's |
| 6. mile's | 12. goat / goat's |

Chapter 3: Indefinite article (*a / an*), definite article (*the*), and zero article (\emptyset)



3.1 *a, an, zero article* (\emptyset)

1. Hydrogen is produced at *a / an / \emptyset* high temperature.
2. Hydrogen is produced at *a / an / \emptyset* high temperatures.
3. This gives *a / an / \emptyset* really useful information.
4. We have made *a / an / \emptyset* progress.
5. We used *a / an / \emptyset* particular software in our calculations.
6. We are doing *a / an / \emptyset* research into rats.
7. *A / An / \emptyset* analysis of the results shows that...
8. I speak *a / an / \emptyset* good English.
9. You can't go there without *a / an / \emptyset* passport.
10. It travels at 90 km *a / an / \emptyset* hour.
11. I have *a / an / \emptyset* headache.
12. This is *a / an / \emptyset* evidence of how effective the system is.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (1) a | (7) an |
| (2) \emptyset | (8) \emptyset |
| (3) \emptyset | (9) a |
| (4) \emptyset | (10) an |
| (5) \emptyset | (11) a |
| (6) \emptyset | (12) \emptyset |

3.2 a, an, one

1. We need to use **a / an / one** LAN, i.e. **a / an / one** local area network.
2. This is designated with **a / an / one** L not **a / an / one** N.
3. There is **a / an / one** complex hierarchy in the company.
4. We went to **a / an / one** hotel. It took **a / an / one** hour to get there.
5. I went to **a / an / one** university in England.
6. He's **a / an / one** honest guy and has **a / an / one** understanding of the topic.
7. It has **a / an / one** unique value.
8. It increased by **a / an / one** order of magnitude.
9. We'll do it **a / an / one** day next week.
10. We used **a / an / one** after the other.
11. This is just **a / an / one** way to achieve such performance.
12. If you make even **a / an / one** mistake you will fail the test.
13. We only did **a / an / one** test before the machine broke down.
14. All these lamps need just **a / an / one** bulb. For this lamp we need **a / an / one** 80 watt bulb and for this lamp **a / an / one** 60 watt bulb.
15. There were **a / an / one** hundred people not two hundred.
16. This is **a / an / one** EU directive.
17. This is **a / an / one** European Union directive.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (1) a, a | (10) one |
| (2) an, an | (11) one |
| (3) a | (12) one |
| (4) a, an (one) | (13) one |
| (5) a | (14) one, an, a |
| (6) an, an | (15) one |
| (7) a | (16) an |
| (8) one | (17) a |
| (9) one | |

3.3 a / an, the, zero article (∅)

1. In **an / the** examination room students are only allowed **a / the** monolingual dictionary.
2. **A / The** dictionary I use the most is **an / the** online one called Word's Worth.
3. In the 1950s **a / the** television changed the way advertising was done.
4. This paper investigates the role of **the / ∅** church and the media in the UK by analyzing how many people go to **the / ∅** church every Sunday in relation to how many have **a / the** television.
5. All the patients had been operated either on **the / ∅** eyes or on **the / ∅** nose.
6. These values can be used in **an / ∅** input.
7. She is acting as **a / ∅** manager while her boss is away.
8. These cells are interpreted as **a / ∅** codomain of x and y.
9. **An / ∅** examination of the residues showed that...
10. This is detectable at **a / ∅** subcellular level in neurons.

(1) the, a

(6) ∅

(2) the, an

(7) ∅

(3) the

(8) a

(4) the, ∅, a

(9) an (∅)

(5) the, the

(10) a

3.4 *the*, zero article (\emptyset): 1

1. *The* / \emptyset aim of this paper is to review all *the* / \emptyset relevant works in *the* / \emptyset literature.
2. We wanted to test for any toxic affects of copper in fruit. *The* / \emptyset Samples of *the* / \emptyset fruit were collected at *the* / \emptyset harvest time to test for *the* / \emptyset residues of copper in *the* / \emptyset edible parts.
3. *The* / \emptyset presence of copper contaminants was confirmed by GC-MS.
4. *The* / \emptyset snow samples were analyzed after *the* / \emptyset melting. These samples were then...
5. In general, *the* / \emptyset formation of *the* / \emptyset clouds seems to depend on...
6. Using this toothpaste totally prevents *the* / \emptyset plaque formation.
7. *The* / \emptyset force triggers *the* / \emptyset mechanism described above.
8. *The* / \emptyset Blake's hypothesis suggests that *the* / \emptyset Boolean value cannot be estimated in such cases.
9. With regard to *the* / \emptyset passive immunization, *the* / \emptyset administration of an antibody that recognizes the disease in *the* / \emptyset patients with *the* / \emptyset mild to moderate symptoms is very useful.
10. *The* / \emptyset rapamycin is a naturally occurring compound with *the* / \emptyset immunosuppressant activity that is used to prevent *the* / \emptyset organ rejection, especially in *the* / \emptyset kidney.

1. the, the, the

2. \emptyset , \emptyset , \emptyset , \emptyset , the

3. the

4. \emptyset [assuming that such samples have not been mentioned before] \emptyset

5. the, \emptyset

6. \emptyset

7. the, the

8. \emptyset , the

9. \emptyset , the \emptyset [i.e. all patients not specific ones], \emptyset

10. \emptyset , \emptyset , \emptyset the