

SINGULAR AND PLURAL WORDS

The following words are Singular and, when used as Subject, take the Verb in the Singular. Use 'much' and not 'many' with these words, and do not use 'a' or 'an' in front of them.

The scenery was fine.

I have much work to do.

I got much information.

I got much good advice.

He went to cut wood.

The furniture was fine.

Iqbal's poetry is fine.

A basket of bread.

Mathematics is easy.

Much news was received.

A basket of fruit.

Physics is difficult.

They reaped the corn.

I had much luggage.

Our innings was short.

His hair is white.

Much machinery is imported.

Works

- (a) Writings, e.g. the works of Iqbal.
- (b) Factory, e.g. a steel works.
- (c) Good deeds, e.g. He was known for his good works.

Fruits

Rewards, results, e.g. the fruits of hard work.

Hairs

Separate hairs, e.g. I pulled out three hairs.

Poems

Pieces of poetry, e.g. I read 3 poems yesterday. (**not**: poetries)

Woods

Forests, e.g. Woodcutters go into the woods to cut wood.

Corns	Hard skin growing on the toes (caused by badly fitting shoes)
Jobs	Pieces of work, e.g. I have some jobs to do. (a job to do)
Loaves	I bought 3 loaves of bread (not : 3 breads)

Note: slices of bread, pieces of toast (**not**: toasts), pieces of advice, information, news, luggage, furniture, wood.

Used with Singular words

Much money
A great deal of money
Little money
Less money
Least money

Used with Plural words

Many books
A large number of books
Few books
Fewer books
Fewest books

Note: A lot of can be used with either (a lot of money, a lot of books)

Singular Words and Expressions

<u>Neither</u> of the two is right.	<u>Everybody</u> thinks <u>he</u> is right.
<u>Either</u> of the two is right.	<u>Each</u> of them thinks <u>he</u> is right.
<u>None</u> of the three is right.	Neither he nor his brother <u>is</u> going.
<u>Not one</u> of them is right.	Neither he nor I <u>am</u> going.
<u>Many a man</u> was killed.	He, as well as I, <u>is</u> going.
<u>Man after man</u> was killed.	He and I <u>are</u> going.

Note: (a) The police were informed (always plural)
The cattle were grazing (always plural: never 'cattles')

(b) The following words are the same in the Singular and Plural:

Fish, sheep, deer, offspring, innings.

(c) The two thieves divided the money between themselves.

The three thieves divided the money among themselves.

(d) He is one of the greatest writers who have ever lived.