

Article-Noun Agreement

Introduction

Articles and nouns must agree in number as shown by the following examples.

Singular examples

A **singular noun** requires a *singular article*.

That **child** is happy.

One **child** is happy.

A **child** is happy.

Plural examples

A **plural noun** requires a *plural article*.

Those **children** are happy.

Two **children** are happy.

Some **children** are happy.

Trouble spots

some of the ...

one of the ...

Constructions with phrases like **some of the ...** or **one of the ...** pick out one or more things among several instances and therefore the subsequent noun is plural.

Here are some example sentences.

Some of the students are happy.

(The phrase **Some of the** picks out some students from a possibly larger set of students.)

One of the children is happy.

(The phrase **One of the children** picks out one child amongst a number of children.)

... kinds of ...
... kind of ...
... types of ...
... type of ...

Phrases like **these kinds of** and **these types of** refer to several things and require a plural noun. Phrases like **this kind of** and **this type of** refer to one sort of thing and require a single noun.

Consider the following.

These kinds of discussions are useful.

This kind of discussion is useful.

(The phrase **These kinds of** picks out a number of things, while the phrase **This kind of** picks out one sort of thing. Notice that **These**, **kinds**, and **discussions** are all plural and that **This**, **kind** and **discussion** are all singular.

Try the quiz below to test your understanding.

Article-Noun Agreement Quiz

For each of the following sentences, choose all the possible completions.

The receptionist is likely to accept some of the ...

- boxes
- box
- advices
- advice

Those ... of books appeal to many people.

- type
- types
- sorts
- kinds

One of the ... was injured.

- workman
- student
- workmen
- technicians

... kind of ... was found.

- One - weed
- One - weeds
- Two - weed
- Two - weeds

Several ... of drugs were discovered in the case.

- kinds
- types
- sort
- sorts

Answers

The receptionist is likely to accept some of the ...

- boxes ✓
- box
- advices
- advice ✓

(Note: "advices" is not a word.)

Those ... of books appeal to many people.

- type
- types ✓
- sorts ✓
- kinds ✓

(Yes. Plural forms are required.)

One of the ... was injured.

- workman
- student
- workmen ✓
- technicians ✓

(Yes. These are plural forms. Phrases such as "one of the" pick out one thing from a number of instances.)

... kind of ... was found.

- One - weed ✓
- One - weeds
- Two - weed
- Two - weeds

("Kind" is singular. You need to keep the other words singular.)

Several ... of drugs were discovered in the case.

- kinds ✓
- types ✓
- sort
- sorts ✓

(Yes. These are all plural forms.)