

## Exercises

### Exercise 3a (answers on p. 202)

- Which of the following nouns are count nouns (having a plural), and which are mass nouns?  
*weed, gold, rigidity, laugh, rubbish, employer, music.*
- Many nouns (like *hair*) are capable of acting as both count nouns and mass nouns, but with some difference of meaning. Explain such differences of meaning in the following:  
*paper, wood, grass, cake, coffee, success, kindness, motorway.*
- Some English nouns have irregular plural forms (e.g. the plural of *man* is *men*, not the regular *\*mans*). Find two examples of each of the following kinds of irregular plural: (a) plurals involving change of vowel; (b) plurals ending in *-i*; (c) plurals ending in *-a*; (d) plurals which have the same form as the singular.

### Exercise 3b (answers on p. 202)

- List the Vo, Vs, Ved, Ving and Ven forms for the following verbs:  
*take, receive, begin, hang, sleep.*
- Find ten irregular verbs, and list their five forms. (Do not attempt the verb *to be* at this stage.)

### Exercise 3c (answers on p. 202)

Which of the following adjectives are gradable?

a kind thought	<i>criminal</i> law	a male pig
dirty water	a Japanese wrestler	a chauvinist pig
a unique painting	careful speech	an absolute pig

Be prepared to explain how you arrived at the answer.

### Exercise 3d

Some adjectives are capable of being gradable or non-gradable with some difference of meaning: for example, in an *odd expression*, *odd* is gradable; while in an *odd number*, *odd* is non-gradable. Provide pairs of phrases, like these, which exemplify the gradable and non-gradable use of these adjectives: *human, guilty, musical, economic, magnetic, moral, correct, foreign*. Discuss how the two uses of each adjective differ in meaning.

### Exercise 3e (answers on p. 203)

Many adverbs are derived from adjectives by the addition of *-ly*. Some adverbs, however, do not add the *-ly*, but have exactly the same form as adjectives. Which is the adjective and which is the adverb in the following? Why?

- The *early* train arrived *early*<sup>2</sup>.
- I have *long* *l* hated *long*<sup>2</sup> skirts.
- She's not just a *pretty* *l* face, she's also *pretty*<sup>2</sup> good at grammar.
- A *daily* *l* newspaper is one that's printed *daily*<sup>2</sup>.
- That's *right* *l*, turn *right*<sup>2</sup> at the next stile.
- The arrow fell a *short* *l* distance *short*<sup>2</sup> of the target.
- When your health is *better* *l*, you'll play *better*<sup>2</sup>.
- I tried *hard* *l*, but the exercise was too *hard*<sup>2</sup>.

### Exercise 3f (answers on p. 203)

Here are some further examples of word forms which can belong to more than one word class. Identify the word classes of the repeated words in the following.

- His fur *coat* *l* was *coated*<sup>2</sup> with ice.
- Herman is more *German* *l* than any of the *Germans*<sup>2</sup> I've met.
- He *left* *l* her alone on the *left*<sup>2</sup> bank of the Seine.
- There's no point in *drying* *l* your clothes if they're already *dry*<sup>2</sup>.
- Arabella *pointed* *l* at me, and made a very *pointed*<sup>2</sup> remark.
- She drew the curtains to make the room *tighter* *l*; then *tightened*<sup>2</sup> her cigarette with a *lighter*<sup>3</sup>.
- After he had *drunk* *l* the whisky, the *drunk*<sup>2</sup> was very *drunk*<sup>3</sup> indeed.
- The *referee* *l* who *refereed*<sup>2</sup> the *match* *l* *matched*<sup>2</sup> the toughness of the players.

### Exercise 3g (answers on p. 203)

Now that you have studied the open word classes, we can return to nonsense words such as those which occur in *Jabberwocky*. Identify the nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs in the following.

And then, whozing huffily, with cruppets in his spod, podulously priddling across the vomity, vipped Podshaw, that gleeful giup, branding bindily a groon and flupless whampet. Magistly, mimsiness and manity gumbled on Podshaw's blunk gooves.

### Exercise 3h (answers on p. 203)

- Here is a sentence which contains just one instance of each of the eleven word classes introduced in this chapter. Match the words to the word classes:  
*But alas, the two ugly sisters had gone home without her.*
- Find another example (preferably a better one!) of a sentence which, like the one above, contains just one member of each of the eleven word classes.