



UNIT 2A · GENERAL A1

What's this?

Class Book and Workbook · one complete unit

By the end you will...

- Name everyday objects in the classroom, in your bag and on your desk
- Use a and an correctly with singular nouns
- Make plural nouns with -s, -es and remember irregular plurals
- Ask 'What's this?' / 'What are these?' and answer in a full sentence
- Ask for a word you don't know: 'How do you say... in English?'

Warm-up · On my desk

Look around you. Answer with short sentences: 'It's a...' or 'They're...'.

- Say three things on your desk or in your bag in English.
- Which object is very important for you every day? Why?
- Is there one object here you don't know in English?

1. Lead-in · Guess the object

Read the clue and choose the object. Say the answer with 'It's a...' or 'It's an...'.

It is small, it is in your pocket and it rings.

You open a door with it.

You write with it.

You drink coffee from it.

It shows the time.

Now describe one object in your bag. Your partner guesses it.

2. Reading · Three bags, three lives

This is Lucía's bag. It's very big. There is a laptop, a notebook and two pens. There are also three books — she's a student.

This is Omar's bag. It's small. There is a phone, a wallet and one key. 'I don't like big bags,' he says. 'A phone and a key: that's enough.'

This is Nina's bag. There is a camera, an umbrella and a bottle of water. Nina is a photographer, so the camera is always with her.

Comprehension

Who is a student?

What is always in Nina's bag?

Why is Omar's bag small?

2b. Words in the texts

Match the word with the meaning.

- a wallet
you keep your money and cards in it
- an umbrella
you use it in the rain
- a laptop
a small computer you carry with you

- a bottle
you drink water from it

2c. Talk about the texts

Answer in one or two sentences.

- Is your bag like Lucía's, Omar's or Nina's?
Answer key: Model: My bag is like Omar's bag. It's small. There is a phone, a wallet and my keys.
- What is in your bag today?
Answer key: Model: There is a notebook, two pens and a bottle of water.

The Things People Leave on Buses

Source: Apex English · graded news-style report · Original text written for Apex English (A1 graded reader)

A short report about lost property offices in big cities.

Every day, people leave things on buses and trains. In big cities, there are special offices for these things. They are called lost property offices.

What do people lose? Phones, keys, umbrellas, glasses and bags. In London, workers find more than 200 umbrellas every week. They also find strange things: guitars, bicycles and, one time, a small boat!

'Come quickly,' one worker says. 'We keep the things for three months. After that, we give them to charity shops.'

1. READ FOR GIST

- What is the text about?
Answer key: Things people leave on buses and trains, and the offices that keep them.
- Are all the objects normal?
Answer key: No — workers also find strange things like guitars and a boat.

2. READ FOR DETAIL

- How many umbrellas do workers find in London every week?
Answer key: More than 200.
- Name three normal things people lose.
Answer key: Phones, keys and glasses (also umbrellas and bags).
- How long do the offices keep the things?
Answer key: Three months.
- What happens after three months?
Answer key: The things go to charity shops.

3. GLOSSARY

lose / lost

you don't know where your thing is

lost property office

a place with the things people forget

strange

not normal, not usual

charity shop

a shop that sells old things to help people

4. DISCUSS IN PAIRS

- Do you lose things? What do you lose?
- What do you always check before you leave a bus or a taxi?

3. Vocabulary · Everyday objects

SET A

a pen / a pencil

you write with them

a notebook

a small book with empty pages

a chair / a table

furniture in a room

a window / a door

parts of a room

keys

always plural in English when you have more than one

glasses

you wear them to see better (always plural)

SET B

What's this in English?

ask the name of one object

How do you say 'caneta' in English?

ask for a translation

How do you spell it?

ask for the letters

I don't know this word.

an easy, honest sentence in class

Practice

Complete with ONE word.

- What's this in English? — It's a pencil.
- How do you spell it? — P-E-N-C-I-L.
- I write in my notebook every class.
- I open the door with my keys.
- I wear glasses to read small letters.

3b. Where is it?

Match the object with the usual place.

- a laptop
on the desk
- a car
in the street
- a plate
in the kitchen
- a pillow
on the bed
- a ticket
in your pocket

4. Grammar · a / an and plural nouns

a + consonant sound

a pen, a table, a book, a university (you say 'yu-niversity').

an + vowel sound

an apple, an umbrella, an hour (the 'h' is silent).

Plural: + s

one pen two pens · one book three books.

Plural: + es

After -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x: a bus buses · a watch watches · a box boxes.

-y -ies

a city cities · a country countries. But: a boy boys (vowel + y).

Irregular plurals

a man men · a woman women · a child children · a person people.

This / These

What's this? — It's a key. What are these? — They're keys.

4a. a or an?

Complete with a or an.

- It's ___ umbrella.
Answer key: an
- It's ___ notebook.
Answer key: a
- It's ___ apple.
Answer key: an
- It's ___ chair.
Answer key: a
- It's ___ old phone.
Answer key: an
- It's ___ big table.
Answer key: a

4b. Write the plural

Write the plural form of the word.

- one book two ____
Answer key: books
- one watch two ____
Answer key: watches
- one box three ____
Answer key: boxes
- one city four ____
Answer key: cities
- one child two ____
Answer key: children
- one person five ____
Answer key: people
- one woman two ____
Answer key: women

4c. this or these?

Complete the question, then write a short answer.

- What's ____? (one pen)
Answer key: this — It's a pen.
- What are ____? (two keys)
Answer key: these — They're keys.
- What's ____? (one umbrella)
Answer key: this — It's an umbrella.
- What are ____? (three books)
Answer key: these — They're books.

Look at the picture and use the grammar you just studied

Look at the picture. Write 4–5 sentences. Use 'There is a...', 'There are two...' and one plural noun.

5. Listening · In a lost property office

Marta lost her bag on the bus. She talks to Daniel at the lost property office. Listen for the objects and one number.

Two voices — no narrator introduction.

Before you listen

- What do you say when you lose something?
- Which objects do people lose most on a bus?

First listen — gist

- Where are they?
Answer key: At a lost property office at the bus station.
- What is the problem?
Answer key: Marta lost her bag on the bus.

Second listen — detail

- What is in Marta's bag?
Answer key: A phone, two notebooks, her glasses and her keys.
- What colour is the bag?
Answer key: It's a small black bag.
- Which bus number was it?
Answer key: Bus number fourteen.
- Does Daniel find the bag?
Answer key: Yes — he finds a black bag with glasses and keys inside.

5b. Useful language

Match the phrase with the use.

- I lost my bag.
explain your problem
- What's in it?
ask about the objects inside
- Is this it?
show something and check
- Thank you so much!
say thank you in a strong way

6. Speaking · What's this?

Work in pairs. Point to objects and ask: 'What's this?' / 'What are these?'. Answer in full sentences.

- In the classroom
A: Point to five objects and ask 'What's this?'.
B: Answer: 'It's a...' / 'They're...'.
• Lost property office
A: You lost your bag. Say four things inside it.
B: You work there. Ask 'What's in it?' and 'Is it big?'.

6b. Talk together

Ask and answer in pairs.

- What's always in your bag?
- What is on your table at home?
- Do you lose things? What do you lose?
- Which object in this room is your favourite? Why?

6c. Mini presentation · My three objects

Show or draw three objects and say 4–5 sentences about them.

- Object 1: 'This is a...'
- Object 2: 'This is an...'
- Object 3 (plural): 'These are...'
- Why they are important for you
- One sentence: 'I use it every day.'

7. Writing · My bag

Write 40–50 words about your bag or your desk. Use 'There is a / an...' and 'There are...' with at least three plural nouns. Finish with one sentence about your favourite object.

WORKBOOK · HOME PRACTICE

Unit 2A Workbook

Do this after class. Answers are marked for your teacher.

1. Vocabulary gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box.

- It rains a lot here, so I always have an umbrella.
- I write all my new English words in my notebook.
- My money and my cards are in my wallet.
- I can't open the door — where are my keys?
- I work on my laptop at home and in the café.
- I wear glasses because the letters are very small.
- How do you spell your name? — A-N-A.

2. a, an or nothing?

Complete with a, an or – (nothing, for plurals).

- It's ___ apple.
Answer key: an
- It's ___ pen.
Answer key: a
- They're ___ books.
Answer key: –
- It's ___ old table.
Answer key: an
- They're ___ keys.
Answer key: –
- It's ___ umbrella.
Answer key: an
- It's ___ big city.
Answer key: a

3. Singular or plural?

Choose the correct plural form.

The plural of 'box' is ___.

The plural of 'city' is ___.

The plural of 'man' is ___.

The plural of 'watch' is ___.

The plural of 'person' is ___.

The plural of 'child' is ___.

4. Find and fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Write it correctly.

- It's a umbrella.
Answer key: It's an umbrella.
- What are this?
Answer key: What are these?

- There are two box on the table.
Answer key: There are two boxes on the table.
- I have three childs.
Answer key: I have three children.
- These is my keys.
Answer key: These are my keys.
- My glasses is in my bag.
Answer key: My glasses are in my bag.

5. Listening · Three people, three bags

Three people say what is in their bag. Listen for the objects and one number.

- Speaker 1: what is in the bag?
Answer key: Two notebooks, three pens and a bottle of water — he's a student.
- Speaker 2: what does she always have?
Answer key: Her camera, and also an umbrella because it rains a lot.
- Speaker 3: how many things are in the bag?
Answer key: Only two — a phone and one key.

6. Writing · My favourite object

Write 40–50 words about one object you use every day. Say what it is ('It's a / an...'), where it is, and why it is important. Use at least two plural nouns.

7. Reflection

Answer in one or two sentences.

- Which plural forms are difficult for you? Write two examples.
Answer key: Model: 'Watches' and 'children' are difficult for me. I always say 'childs'.
- Write five objects near you now, with a, an or a plural.
Answer key: Model: a laptop, an umbrella, two pens, three books, my glasses.