

Warm Up

Count and noncount nouns provide a number of challenges for non-native speakers. For one, depending on the ways in which they are being used, many noncount nouns can also be treated as count nouns.

For another, some noncount nouns are written in a plural form but are treated as a singular object (paired with the **is** form of the **be** verb) while others are treated as a plural object (paired with the **are** form of the **be** verb).

In today's activity, work with a partner to find the *error(s)* in each of the following sentence. Then rewrite the sentences correctly.

1. The news on Channel 46 are always bad.
The news on Channel 46 **is** always bad.
2. The advisor gave me the wrong informations. Her advices were incorrect.
The advisor gave me the wrong **information**. Her **advice was** incorrect.
3. Rosa's hairs are long and her clothes is very stylish.
Rosa's **hair is** long and her clothes **are** very stylish.
4. Jim needs a paper. He heard a good news, and he wants to write a letters.
Jim needs **(a piece of)** paper. He heard **(some) good** news, and he wants to write a **letter (some letters)**.
5. A love is stronger than a hate.
Love is stronger than **hate**.
6. Her favorite subject are economics.
Her favorite subject **is** economics.

Expressions

In today's scene, Detective Moretti says, *How about giving us the women?*

In a previous class, there was a question about using *How about ...* and *What about ...*. The question was, can these two expressions be used interchangeably or not?

The answer is, in some cases they can, but other cases they can't.

When making a suggestion, both *How about ...* and *What about ...* can be used. The main difference being that *What about ...* tends to be used to make a suggestion when solving a problem, whereas *How about ...* is used more as a general suggestion.

Example

A: I'm not sure what to make for the barbecue tomorrow.

B: How about a potato salad?

A: That's a good idea, but I don't have any potatoes, and I don't feel like going to the store right now.

B: Do you have any macaroni or shells?

A: I have a bag of macaroni.

B: What about making a macaroni salad?

A: Good idea! I'll do that.

When talking about potential problems, you should use *What about ...*, not *How about ...*

Example

B: How'd the potato salad come out?

A: Actually, I decided not to bring anything to the barbecue.

B: What about Joe's email?

A: What do you mean?

B: It asked everyone to bring a dish to pass.

A: Ohhh, you're right. I forgot about that.

Activity

With a partner, look at the following movie-based examples and think about which expression would be better to use, *How about ...* or *What about ...*

(1)

Sal: Sonny, let's just make a run for it and get out of here.

Sonny: (How about / **What about**) the snipers on the roof, Sal? They'd shoot us in a heartbeat.

(2)

Moretti: How about giving us the women, Sonny?

Sonny: (**How about** / **What about**) you and all of those coppers out there go home? Then I'll let the women go.

(3)

Moretti: What's your name?

Sonny: What do you wanna know my name for?

Moretti: I just wanna have something to call you.

Sonny: (**How about** / **What about**) calling me Boss, cuz I'm the one calling the shots around here. You got that? 決定権は俺が握っているからだ。

(4)

Sonny: Listen, everybody. I'm gonna get us all out of here alive. I'm gonna get us a plane, and we'll fly out of the country. (**How about** / **What about**) Algeria? How's that sound to everyone?

Sal: (**How about** / **What about**) the cops in Algeria? What are we gonna do once we get off the plane