

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.

2. The advisor gave me the wrong informations. Her advices were incorrect.

3. Rosa's hairs are long and her clothes is very stylish.

4. Jim needs a paper. He heard a good news, and he wants to write a letters.

5. A love is stronger than a hate.

6. Her favorite subject are 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?

(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?

Today's Scene

Sonny and his partner Sal have just robbed a bank. During the robbery, Sonny made a mistake. He lit a registry book on fire. The smoke from the fire drifted out of the building's vents and caught the attention of a man working in a store across the street. This man called the police and before Sonny and Sal could get away, they were surrounded by armed police.



In today's scene, Detective Sargent Moretti is beginning to try to negotiate with Sonny. He wants to make sure that none of the hostages Sonny and Sal are holding get hurt.



Let's watch the scene and see how Detective Sargent Moretti tries to take control of the situation.

Dialogue

With a partner, please choose one character from today's scene and try reading the script as if you were that character. Do your best to imitate the way the actors speak and move

Conversation

Let's examine today's scene from three perspectives, the perspective of Sonny (the bank robber), the perspective of Moretti (the detective), and the perspective of hostages.

1. If you were Sonny, what would you do to try to escape from the bank alive, and with the money that you've stolen? What kind of demands would you make of Moretti?
2. If you were Moretti, what would you do to try getting the hostages out of the bank alive? What would you say to Sonny on the phone?
3. If you were one of the hostages, what would you do in order to stay alive? What kind of things would you say to Sonny?