



How to Teach Uncountable Nouns with a Funny Role Play

S06E21 | For teachers to adapt to their learners

Teaching focus

A fictional traveller can make deliberate mistakes while a partner supplies usable alternatives. We can discuss the language without putting a real learner's errors on display.

Our suggested routine

1. Gav and Em suggest: repair the packing list Gav and Em suggest a short packing-list repair before learners create their own dialogue. Mini-lesson: in their ordinary meanings, luggage, furniture and advice are uncountable. Use some or a suitable counting expression, such as two pieces of luggage. Check: repair these deliberately incorrect phrases: (1) three luggages; (2) two furnitures; (3) an advice. Possible answers: (1) three pieces of luggage or three suitcases; (2) two pieces of furniture; (3) a piece of advice or some advice. Practice: one fictional traveller packs three unlikely items using deliberate errors. A partner supplies natural alternatives. Swap roles, then hide the corrections and try again. Review: check the intended meaning in context. This practice uses ordinary uncountable meanings; some nouns have other uses in particular situations.

After the attempt

What could learners do? What needed another model or a smaller step? Choose one useful adjustment and try the task again.

Notes for our next lesson

Read the full teaching article and listen to the episode at howtoenglishpod.com