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Hi, friends.I was reading this webpage. It says fishes is used to refer to multiple species of fish. But then "the Fishes" appears in some example sentences and really confuse meBut after reading this webpage, I still don't understand why "fish's" can't be used in those example sentences in this webpage.Take this example sentence there, "the fishes scales were yellow" Why is "fishes" ? If they mean some types of fish, I then I think it should be "these fishes' scales were yellow." "The fishes" ? I really have no idea why it is not "The fish's" Please help, thanks. This fish is large. These fish are large. Fish can do duty as singular or plural, because the number is obvious - both from the demonstrative adjective and from the verb. The fish's scales were yellow. The fishes' scales were yellow. When there is no other way of distinguishing the intended number, we have to use fishes' for the plural. I'm giving my opinion only, and haven't consulted any textbooks or websites. I disagree strongly that fishes is used to designate multiple species of fish, say, herring, cod, tuna, etc. fish /f/ n., pl. (esp. when thought of as a group) fish, (esp. for kinds or species) fishes, v. fish (fish), n., pl. (fish, (f)ishes, (esp. referring to two or more kinds or species) [esp. collectively] v. I don't often disagree with Velisarius and I'm not clear that I'm about to here. Taking her two examples: The fish's scales were yellow. The fishes' scales were yellow. For me, The fish's scales were yellow would have to be talking about one (singular) fish. The fishes' scales were yellow would be talking about the scales of more than one fish. Although we do often use fish as the plural of fish, I don't think I could use it in the genitive form (fish's (of more than one fish)). I'd have to write fishes'. I may be heterodox is this. Last edited: Sep 27, 2015 I do agree with that Mr TT. Thank you for forcing me to re-read the question. I think I read what I was expecting to see, and I didn't realise the question was about species of fish. The linked-to page has: Fishes, with an apostrophe, also serves as the plural possessive of fish for example, the fishes scales were yellow. and I think I based my answer on that. Good. Thank you. I wasn't actually talking about different species of fish either. I'm not clear that fishes has to refer to plural species rather than to plural fish of any species - The big sea does not care which way the little fishes swim (couldn't they all be herring?) I just can't see fish's being the possessive of more than one individual fish. You could make that individual fish the exemplar for the species, of course, but that isn't to turn it into a plural. It's possible that people wrongly say fishes' because fish's is hard to pronounce, and the latter is usually pronounced fishes' for that reason. Their pronunciation is identical. I just can't see fish's being the possessive of more than one individual fish. I think I agree, since "fish" is a singular mass noun when discussing types of fish - Mackerel: this fish's feeding habits make it easy to catch with lures. I'm describing many fish (plural) but "fish's" is singular. So it says fishes is used to refer to multiple species of fish. That's not quite what it says. It gives that as an example of how "fishes" is used as a technical term by biologists. I think I agree, since "fish" is a singular mass noun when discussing types of fish - Mackerel: this fish's feeding habits make it easy to catch with lures. I'm describing many fish (plural) but "fish's" is singular. That's what I meant by making an individual fish 'the exemplar for the species'. It is a single individual fish but it stands of all its species. That's not quite what it says. It gives that as an example of how "fishes" is used as a technical term by biologists. Thanks, can I take it that 'fishes' is a term that means all the creatures that can be put into the category of fish? Fish and the like? I suppose by "similar" you mean other animals that live in water: clams, squid, etc. No, I wouldn't call them fish. The maximum extent of 'fish' for a biologist would be: (1) ray-finned fish (the vast majority: cod, carp, herring, salmon, eel, etc.); (2) cartilaginous fish (sharks, rays); (3) lobe-finned fish (lungfish and coelacanths, and we humans belong in here by descent); (4) lampreys; and (5) hagfish. And whatever fossil ancestors are needed to join up this family tree. So those are various kinds, and groups, of fish or fishes. The word 'fishes' is not required for any sense, but might be useful to talk about plurals of fish species: A lot of fish live around black smokers (volcanic vents). [vague: could just mean large numbers in few species] A lot of fishes live around black smokers. [more clearly indicates numerous species] Multiple choice multiple choice multiple choices only one option is correct Interesting post, SuperXW! So in learning a word in a foreign language, we don't just need to know how to say it in the target language but also what it means exactly in the target language. The meanings of what's supposed to be the same word may, as you've shown, turn out to mean the opposite on close examination. In this case, some people may say that the words in the two languages mean the same and another may choose to say that they mean the opposite, and thenceforth erupt the endless debates and disputes that we often see on the forums... (Not on our forum, of course!) Last edited: Jul 19, 2011 only one option is correct Based on my university experience in an English-speaking country, when people say multiple choice, it is almost always understood to be . If it is meant to be , the instructions will tell you that one or more answers may be correct, etc. Amen to that. Interesting observation! I agree. I've actually never come across any English-language tests or exercises in which a multiple choice test was " in the Chinese sense; whereas is a common phenomenon for mainland Chinese students. Sidenote: I hear that the Turkish examination system also commonly incorporates as part of its equivalent to the . So it seems that since are inherently much trickier, they might be employed more frequently in countries in which standardised testing is used as the ultimate means of evaluating students and deciding university admissions. Just a hypothesis. :) Moderator's Note: Please let me remind all that we can discuss as much as necessary the words or phrases in the title of the thread, but as soon as we go further than that and away from the linguistic aspect of the words and phrases in question, we run the risk of going off topic. ("Which type of test being more difficult", for example, is not a linguistic question). So, please pay a little attention to this and continue enjoying the discussion. Last edited by a moderator: Jul 20, 2011 Thanks all! So in your experience, if a question does allow more than one answers, beside giving an additional instruction, is that possible for the tester to use "multiple choices" instead of "multiple choice"? Hi SuperXW, I don't think the word "choice" in "multiple choice" is intended to reflect how many answers you can give to the question, but just to show that the question involving choosing (out of multiple answers, usually 4). So, I don't think we use "multiple choices" in this context. There isn't an 's' behind 'choice' because the word is employed as an adjective, i.e. Multiple-choice questions, also affectionately known as MCQs. Thanks! I think it's also abbreviated to MC or M/C, if my memory serves. Bonjour Le pluriel de questionnaire choix multiples est-il questionnaires choix multiples ou questionnaires choix multiple ? Merci d'avance pour votre aide ! Ioriginne, ce sont les questions qui sont choix multiple (voir CNRTL I.A.4.). Chaque choix est multiple (au singulier) de la mme manire qu'un objet est multicolore, un animal omnivore, un ouvrier polyvalent ou, quelle chance, un trfle quadrilob Cest par une mtonymie (un raccourci) rcente que lon parle de questionnaire choix multiple, ce qui est courant mais un peu abusif puisqu'on ne choisit pas les questions mais les rponses prdfinies aux questions. Cela tant, au pluriel, on pourra utiliser grammaticalement le complment au singulier (des questionnaires choix multiple) ou au pluriel (choix multiples). Comme souvent, en labsence de diffrence de sens, cest le singulier qui est prfrable car gnrique. Linguistiquement, le pluriel ne se marque que pour une relle diffrence. Un questionnaire qui comporte des choix multiples est un questionnaire choix multiples (de multiples choix et non unique). Larousse dfinit ainsi ladjectif multiple : Qui nest pas unique, qui se prsente sous des aspects divers, nombreux ou existe en grand nombre, apparat un grand nombre de fois: Produit usages multiples. Contrairement un choix unique. Donc comme cette partie me semble toujours au pluriel, la question ne se pose pas pour plusieurs questionnaires. Cest mon analyse, peut-tre que dautres auront une vision diffrente. Bonjour Joelle, et merci pour cette rponse. Si je comprends bien, il faut penser qu'un choix doit tre fait chaque question, ce qui entrane plusieurs choix au total. Do le pluriel. Cela semble logique. Je constate que vous crivez, au singulier, questionnaire choix multiples . Je trouve cette formulation dans de nombreux documents. Cependant, le Robert et le Larousse en ligne donnent questionnaire choix multiple . Cest pour cela que je minterrogeais sur la variabilit de choix multiple . Je dois rendre mon document de travail rapidement, je vais donc suivre votre rponse et faire le choix du pluriel. Je reste nanmoins perplexe. Bonsoir et merci vous, Joelle et Chambaron ! J'y vois un peu plus clair: Les diffrents sites linguistiques canadiens que je consulte gnrllement prtrent galement le singulier : Question choix multiple. Dans ce terme, le nonchoix ainsi que ladjectif multiple qui le qualifie sont plus frquemment crits au singulier, bien que l'emploi du pluriel soit lui aussi possible. J'utiliserai donc le singulier dsormais. Bonne soire. Hi, before I came across the text below, I had thought we couldn't use "with" with "multiply" -for example, not "multiply two by four" but "multiply two by four". "Let us therefore multiply body A, proportional to 1, with its speed, proportional to 2; the product or quantity of motion will be proportional to 2. On the other hand, let us multiply body B, proportional to 4, with its speed, proportional to 1; the product or quantity of motion will be proportional to 4" It's from Leibniz's discourse on metaphysics and the original text is French. Last edited: May 28, 2018 The context is somewhat obscure - the idea of multiplying a "body" by a speed is a strange concept - I suspect that there might be a mistake in the translation. In a usual context, e.g. "multiply two by four", by is correct. However, although it is usual to multiply by a number, it is also possible to multiply with a noun, i.e. one that references a number, where "with" has the meaning of "by the use of", e.g. "Multiply A by B and then multiply the answer with the answer from your earlier result." NB Please note that Leibniz is a proper noun/name, and therefore must be capitalised. You can use with, but if you use this preposition, don't be surprised if you are told that it's a mistake. "Let us therefore multiply body A, proportional to 1, with its speed, proportional to 2; the product or quantity of motion will be proportional to 2. On the other hand, let us multiply body B, proportional to 4, with its speed, proportional to 1; the product or quantity of motion will be proportional to 4" There is no "metaphysical" meaning for "multiply". This quote seems to refer to physics. The words "body" and "quantity of motion" are bad translations. Most likely "body" should be "mass", and "quantity of motion" should be "kinetic energy". Whatever the correct words are, the translator should have used exact physics technical terms, not general English rough translations. Since it's a bad translation, we should ignore it when considering whether "with" is acceptable with "multiply". I was looking for an answer to the same question and bumped into this old thread. Specifically, I was wondering should I say "multiply by a 1-bit value" or "multiply with a 1-bit value" According to PaulQ's answer above, with should be used here since "1-bit value" is not a number but only referencing a number. Is it correct? Use "by". Using "with" is much less common, and is much easier to use incorrectly. Note: the phrase "a 1-bit value" means "zero or one". So here "multiply by" really means "choose the number or zero". It is a binary choice, not an actual multiplication. Note: the phrase "a 1-bit value" means "zero or one". So here "multiply by" really means "choose the number or zero". It is a binary choice, not an actual multiplication. Firstly, thanks, I will use "by". Secondly, I know exactly what multiplication by 1-bit value means technically. The thing is, I have an operation that is multiplication from algorithm point of view. It just so happens that I can reduce the multiplier to one bit. And of course, the implementation of the multiplication becomes very simple. However, it is not as simple as you think because I am dealing with complex values. Anyway, I was just wondering how to call this simplified operation. However, it is not as simple as you think because I am dealing with complex values. I vaguely remember the definition of "multiplication" for complex values. It's a different operation. I don't remember what terminology is used in mathematics for this operation. My comment about "by/with" was for general English: the multiplication of scalars. No imaginary numbers. No vectors. No complex numbers. I vaguely remember the definition of "multiplication" for complex values. It's a different operation. I don't remember what terminology is used in mathematics for this operation. My comment about "by/with" was for general English: the multiplication of scalars. No imaginary numbers. No vectors. No complex numbers. It doesn't matter if they are complex numbers. It's the same remembering that i squared is equal to minus one. Multiplication is always 'by'. Hi, For a multiple choice question, only one out of several choices is correct and supposed to pick. Now, what I want to ask is that when a question has several choices, and more than one choice (e.g. two or more) is correct and all the correct ones are required to pick, what do you call this kind of question? Many thanks! It's still "multiple choice", easy when. There are multiple choices and you have to pick the right ones. Hi Dimcl, I think it's rather confusing. Now, if I take an exam with these multiple choice questions, how am I supposed to tell which is which? Normally the question will state something like (Choose all that apply) when there are more than one correct answer. Also, for some reason, I usually notice that multiple choice questions with only one answer will have circles to fill in on the answers. However, the questions with more than one correct answer will have BOXES instead of CIRCLES. Normally the question will state something like (Choose all that apply) when there are more than one correct answer. Also, for some reason, I usually notice that multiple choice questions with only one answer will have circles to fill in on the answers. However, the questions with more than one correct answer will have BOXES instead of CIRCLES. Hi, vector! Thank you so much. And it occurs to me that questions with more than one correct answer might be uncommon in the U.S and other English-speaking countries. What do you say? We are moving away from a language question to one of test design. When an exercise has only one "correct" answer the instructions tell the reader to mark only one answer. When more than one answer is possible, the instructions tell the reader to mark all those that are correct. As Dimcl said clearly, both varieties are called multiple choice questions. We are moving away from a language question to one of test design. When an exercise has only one "correct" answer the instructions tell the reader to mark only one answer. When more than one answer is possible, the instructions tell the reader to mark all those that are correct. As Dimcl said clearly, both varieties are called multiple choice questions. Hi, cuchu! To me, it's still a language question. What I'd like to point out is that whenever "multiple-choice questions" came up in a conversation (between a native English speaker and me), native English speakers had invariably taken it as "a question with only one correct answer". Such being the case, I speculate that using questions with more than one answer is seldom done in English-speaking countries, and wonder if there is a set phrase for this kind of question to tell from each other. Since both Cuchu and I indicated that there isn't, I'm not sure what answer we can give you, easy when... I'll add my voice to those of Dimcl and Cuchu. The multiple choice questions I have seen come with instructions. They may say "Choose the correct answer" and they may say "Choose the correct answers". There is no difference in what the questions themselves are called. I recently participated in an on-line survey in American English. Some of the questions ended "Check one" and others "Check all that apply". They were all multiple choice questions. It is more usual for multiple choice questions on tests to have only one answer, but that is not mandated by the term. Don't really know how to make it any clearer. Thank you very much everyone, for your painstaking efforts! P.S. In Chinese, you know, there are surely words for these different kinds of questions, and that's why I was splitting the hairs!

Instructions for multiple choice. Quiz instructions example multiple choice. Example of instructions for multiple choice test. Multiple choices example. Multiple choice instructions sample.