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## TASK 5

**Instruction:** It is well known that some English nouns lack singular forms and are always used in the plural, e.g. *trousers*, *shorts*, *scissors*, etc. The grammatical behavior of such nouns usually reflects the fact that they refer to items that have to be made up of identical parts to operate properly. For example, shorts and trousers have to have two legs to be useful, scissors work well only if they are made up of two blades, etc. If that is the case linguists say that the grammatical behavior of a noun is motivated.

Please consider the following nouns used in English only in the plural and try to deduce the motivation of their grammatical behavior:

#	Noun	Motivation
1	handcuffs	
2	crossroads	
3	congratulations	
4	negotiations	
5	ruins	
6	savings	
7	fireworks	



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8	belongings	
9	stairs	
10	European Football Championships	

## KEY

Two points for each answer providing the gist of the motivation outlined below. One point if the answer is incomplete or seriously flawed in its grammar.

#	Noun	Motivation
1	handcuffs	Two identical parts for two hands needed to operate properly.
2	crossroads	A place where at least two streets / roads intersect.
3	congratulations	At least two persons are needed: the person who congratulates and the person who is congratulated.
4	negotiations	At least two parties are needed to conduct negotiations
5	ruins	A location of multiple pieces left from a building
6	fireworks	A display of multiple explosions
7	savings	The total of smaller sums saved on separate occasions



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8	belongings	The total of all things owned by a person
9	stairs	A sequence of steps
10	European Football Championships	A tournament made up of a series of football matches