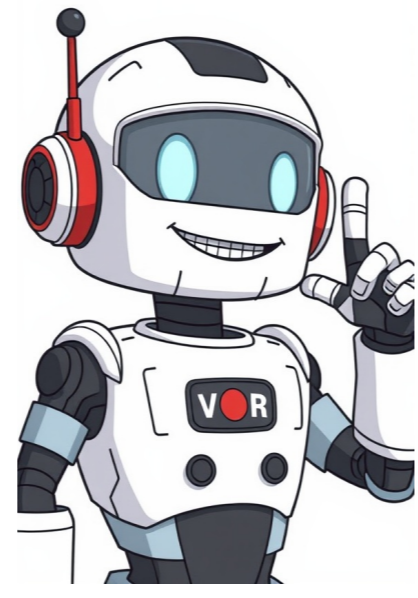


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Things are pretty good now, things are pretty bad now, how are things?, things have been pretty difficult for me lately etc. are colloquial English expressions. I can't tell you exactly why, but it should always be things and those "things" don't really refer to anything concrete or specific. Things just means the current situation or the current state of affairs in a broader sense. That last statement in your example can be paraphrased like this: life has gotten pretty bad for him recently. We're talking about life and its different aspects, whatever those aspects might be, in general. I think, because there are usually many different aspects to life, that's probably why things is plural. Dialogue example: Hey, John. How's it going? I heard you were sick. Yeah, but things are better now. I'm recovering. No, we're not talking about "things" that the guy in this dialogue supposedly has. What we're saying here is that life is getting better for him and his health is improving because he's on the road to recovery. Things here simply refers to the different unspecified aspects of the current situation (whatever those aspects might be: life, health etc.), but not to anything concrete or specific. So, don't try to overthink it. The verb must agree with the subject of the sentence, not the predicate nominative. In my AmE experience, the word "standards" isn't used as a collective noun. Therefore, the grammatical way to refer to high standards, as a whole, must be "high standards are." The predicate nominative, which describes the subject, can be either singular or plural. So grammatically, both "a good thing" and "good things" are acceptable. However, there is a small difference between using "good things" or "a good thing": High standards are a good thing. This phrasing suggests that the high standards act more as a unit, and that the group (or presence of the group) is a good thing. Like mentioned in mplungjan's answer, an alternative group-based phrasing is "Having high standards is a good thing." High standards are good things. This treats each standard a bit more independently, perhaps suggesting that each of the standards should be counted or considered separately. This treats standards more like things that one could list, for example as used on a profile or rsum. If all of this seems too particular, you could just settle with using a predicate adjective and say "High standards are good." Are there any idioms or phrases to describe a continuous occurrence of bad things, but after a lapse of time. For instance, a man was killed, leaving his wife and son. Few months later, the wife was diagnosed with cancer. And after a year, her son passed away. I am thinking of using the idiom it never rains but it pours. But I have also read on stackexchange that this idiom is better suiting a scenario where bad things happen one after the other in a quick succession Both sentences can be correct: This is one of the things which is really important to her. This is one thing. It is really important to her. This is one of the things which are really important to her. Out of all of the things that are really important to her, this is one. So, either one thing is important, or the things are important. In the singular meaning, the other things might or might not be really important to her. Another difference is that This is one of the things which are really important to her. needs no previous referent because "things" is general enough to be understood generically, whereas This is one of the things which is really important to her. needs a referent for "things" because "one" makes it specific: There are many interesting things in her life, some important, some not. This is one of the things which is really important to her. Adding a comma makes the meaning clearer: This is one of the things, which is really important to her.

What are good questions to ask about myself. What questions should i ask about myself. What are questions about yourself.

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