

In our Chapter 'Nouns & Pronouns', we learned that '**noun**' is a collective name in English grammar used for identifying (spotting/recognizing) **a person(s), a place(s), a thing(s), an idea(s), and an animal(s)** in a sentence.

Nouns can appear in a **singular** or **plural** form.

'**Singular**' means: **there is only one**: bird, lamp, box, table cloth, photo, chair.

'**Plural**' means: **there are more than one**: birds, lamps, boxes, table clothes, photos, chairs.

Often rules for changing singular to plural nouns are not properly applied, resulting in mistakes.

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Let's take a look at these **plural noun rules**.

1. To make singular nouns plural, add **-s** to the end of most nouns

Singular	Plural
one dog	two dogs, three dogs, seventeen dogs
one lamp	two lamps, four lamps, eleven lamps
bridge	bridges
bird	birds

Pronunciation of 's' endings

At the end of a word, we can pronounce 's' as /s/ or /z/.

A. After the following sounds we pronounce 's' as /s/:

- After a /p/sound:

2 lamps /s/

- After a /t/sound:

2 ants /s/

- After a /k/sound:

2 books /s/

- After a  /sound:

2 clothes /s/

- After a /f/ sound:

2 cliffs /s/

B. In all other cases we pronounce 's' as /z/:

3 trees /z/

2 dogs /z/

4 flowers /z/

7 managers /z/

2. When the noun ends in -ch, -sh, -s, -z, or -x, form the plural by adding -es.

A. Words ending **-ch**:

speech – speeches

batch – batches bunch – bunches

beach – beaches

coach – coaches branch – branches

B. Words ending in **-sh**:

brush – brushes

bush – bushes

crash – crashes

dish – dishes

clash – clashes

crush – crushe

C. Words ending **-s**:

bus – buses

dress – dresses

gas – gasses

glass – glasses

class – classes

kiss – kisses

D. Words ending **-z**:

quiz – quizzes

buzz – buzzes

topaz - topazes

waltz – waltzes

fuzz – fuzzes

E. Words ending **-x**:

box – boxes

fox – foxes

climax - climaxes

tax – taxes

wax – waxes

ax – axes

Pronunciation of 'es' endings

When we add **-es**, the pronunciation is always /iz/.

2 foxes /iz/

2 boxes /iz/

Why do we add -es and not -s

If you add only an 's' to a word like 'fox' (foxs), you cannot hear this extra 's' without making an extra syllable 'es'. That's why we add 'es': foxes. Pronunciation 'foxiz'.

In some cases, singular nouns ending in -s or -z require that you double the -s or -z before you add the -es for pluralization: gas – gasses, fez – fezzes, quiz - quizzes

Exercise 1

Underline only the singular nouns without consulting previous pages

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 1. watches | 11. church | 21. fans | 31. stones |
| 2. streets | 12. dresses | 22. girls | 32 grasses |
| 3. box | 13. lunch | 23. churches | 33 glass |
| 4. mug | 14. taxes | 24. foxes | 34. car |
| 5. kitchens | 15. curtain | 25. doctor | 35. light |
| 6. glasses | 16. road | 26. orange | 36. buses |
| 7. garden | 17. streets | 27. mouse | 37. nouns |
| 8. arms | 18. house | 28. priests | 38. bees |
| 9. shoes | 19. bridge | 29. island | 39. blitz |
| 10. fuzzes | 20. ants | | 30. farmer |

Exercise 2

Give the plurals of next nouns.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. one box, two _____ | 9. one monk, two _____ |
| 2. one church. two _____ | 10. one cup, two _____ |
| 3. one juicy orange. two _____ | 11. one watch, two _____ |
| 4. one axe, two _____ | 12. one bus, two _____ |
| 5. one toothbrush, two _____ | 13. one branch, two _____ |
| 6. one clean beach, two _____ | 14. one kiss, two _____ |
| 7. one remote, two _____ | 15. one bridge, two _____ |
| 8. one pineapple, two _____ | 16. one quiz, two _____ |

3. Nouns ending in y preceded by a consonant, form their plurals by changing -y to -ies.

All alphabet letters except a, e, i, o, and u are consonants.

Examples: lady – ladies city – cities baby – babies

Exercise 3

Write the plurals of the following words:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1. sky _____ | 6. story _____ | 11. fry _____ |
| 2. berry _____ | 7. duty _____ | 12. spy _____ |
| 3. army _____ | 8. Injury _____ | 13. bully _____ |
| 4. beauty _____ | 9. history _____ | 14. theory _____ |
| 5. pony _____ | 10. cherry _____ | 15. dictionary _____ |

4. Nouns ending in y preceded by a vowel, form their plurals by adding -s.

a, e, i, o, and u are vowels.

Examples: boy – boys toy – toys

Exercise 4

Write the plurals of the following words:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. valley _____ | 6. donkey _____ |
| 2. chimney _____ | 7. turkey _____ |
| 3. volley _____ | 8. play _____ |
| 4. kidney _____ | 9. essay _____ |
| 5. delay _____ | 10. joy _____ |

Exercise 5

In this exercise you see nouns ending vowel + y and nouns ending consonant + y.

Write their plural forms in each second column.

1. city	
2. memory	
3. abbey	
4. family	
5. penny	
6. journey	
7. boy	
8. story	

9. bakery	
10. portray	
11. sky	
12. survey	
13. fairy	
14. Thursday	
15. tray	
16. spy	

17. trolley	
18. monkey	
19. valley	
20. army	
21. berry	
22. essay	
23. party	
24. holiday	

5. Nouns ending in –o can add either –s or –es in the plural form and some can be spelled

either way.

As a rule, most nouns ending o only get an -s at the end.

motto – mottos solo – solos avocado – avocados

Here a list of the most common nouns ending in –o that are always spelled with –es in the plural form.

veto	veto	veto	veto
domino	domino	dominoes	dominoes
echo	echo	echoes	echoes
embargo	embargo	embargoes	embargoes
hero	hero	heroes	heroes
mosquito	mosquito	mosquitoes	mosquitoes
potato	potato	potatoes	potatoes
torpedo	torpedo	torpedoes	torpedoes
tomato	tomato	tomatoes	tomatoes

From this page, you will see that there are some exceptions on the given rules.

Also exceptions should be learned for a good use of the plural forms.

Here is a list of some common nouns ending in –o that can be spelled with either –s or –es in the plural form.

cargo	cargos or cargoes	mango	mangos or mangoes
flamingo	flamingos or flamingoes	memento	mementos or mementoes
fresco	frescos or frescoes	motto	mottos or mottoes
ghetto	ghettos or ghettoes	tornado	tornados or tornados
volcano	volcanos or volcanoes	tuxedo	tuxedos or tuxedoes

Exercise 6

Write down the plural forms of the nouns ending –o.

Sometimes the plurals can be written **in the second and the third column.**

Singular	Plural by adding -s	Plural by adding -es
1. kilo	1	1
2. cargo	2	2
3. motto	3	3
4. hero	4	4
5. piano	5	5
6. veto	6	6
7. mango	7	7
8. flamingo	8	8
9. zoo	9	9
10. domino	10	10
11. volcano	11	11
12. photo	12	12
13. echo	13	13
14. fresco	14	14
15. ghetto	15	15
16. mosquito	16	16
17. embargo	17	17
18. memento	18	18
19. potato	19	19
20. torpedo	20	20
21. solo	21	21
22. tomato	22	22
23. tornado	23	23
24. tuxedo	24	24

6. Some nouns ending in -f or -fe are made plural by changing -f or -fe to -ves

Example: leaf – leaves, wife – wives

A. Nouns ending in 'f', change the 'f' to 'v' and add 'es'.

1. dwarf	dwarves	7. shelf	shelves
2. wolf	wolves	8. thief	thieves
3. loaf	loaves	9. elf	elves
4. sheaf	sheaves	10. yourself	yourselves
5. calf	calves	11 half	halves
6. self	selves		

B. Nouns ending in 'fe', change the 'fe' to 'v' and add 'es'

1. life	lives
2. afterlife	afterlives
3. midlife	midlives
4. nightlife	nightlives
5. knife	knives
6. penknife	penknives
7. wife	wives
8. housewife	housewives

C. All other words than A + B ending in -f or -fe will add -s

Examples:

1. chef	chefs
2. chief	chiefs
3. cliff	cliffs
4. giraffe	giraffes
5. handcuff	handcuffs
6. roof	roofs
7. safe	safes
8. staff	staffs

D. Some have two forms of the plural

dwarf	dwarves or dwarfs
handkerchief	handkerchieves or handkerchiefs
hoof	hooves or hoofs
scarf	scarves or scarfs
wharf	wharves or wharfs

Exercise 7

Change the singular nouns in the 2 tables, ending -f or -fe, into plurals.

1. knife		14. chief	
2. leaf		15. giraffe	
3. roof		16 yourself	
4. housewife		17. wife	
5. safe		18. self	
6. calf		19. thief	
7. wolf		20. proof	
8. life		21. elf	
9. half		22. chef	
10. handcuff		23. cliff	
11. loaf		24. shelf	
12. afterlife		25. midlife	
13. sheaf			

7. Irregular Plural Nouns

Several nouns have irregular plural forms.

man	men	louse	lice
person	people	ox	oxen
mouse	mice	aircraft	aircraft
child	children	analysis	analyses
foot	feet	basis	bases
goose	geese	crisis	crises
tooth	teeth		

8. Some plural forms don't change at all.

deer – deer fish – fish sheep – sheep species - species

Exercise 8

person (2x) monkey potato foot toy volcano
child dress dictionary bus knife

In this exercise many of the nouns we've learned are mixed. Choose a noun from the block, change it to plural, and write it in the sentence.

1. It's easier to teach _____ than to teach adults.
2. When Tom put his _____ into the stream, he felt something bite his toe.
3. The girls are wearing their beautiful new _____ for the first time.
4. I always use two _____ for translations into French and German.
5. I wanted to see the elephants first, but Joseph wanted to see the _____.
6. Most Asian _____ like to eat rice; they don't like _____.
7. _____ are not _____. They are very dangerous.
8. All the _____ were full. My father brought me to school by car.
9. _____ can erupt suddenly and their lava can kill many _____.

Exercise 9

Correct the mistakes (not only in singular and plurals) in the next 15 sentences and rewrite them.

1. I never wash the dishes. My mother thinks that woman should do that.

2. Dwarf are very small man. We know them from storys for childs.

3. Mama giraffs give birth to babys after 14 month of pregnancies.

4. Polygamy is the fact of being married to more than one person at the same times.

5. Persons can store there books on bookshelves.

6. Aircraft are any vehicle that can fly, such as a planes and a helicopters.

7. I bought a scarve for my grandfather. He has two scarfs now.

8. The financial crisis in Asia is over and the economys of the countries are improving rapidly.

13.

Change Singular to Plural



9. Deers, fishes and sheeps are totally different animal spicies.

10. Don't fish near cliffes and rocky pointes.

11. He led his man over snowy mountain and down into hot vallies.

12. Many peoples took shelter in the strong abbys and churchs.

13. The thiefes opened the door with a pass keys.

14. Gina picked some berries and ate it.

15. I cannot brush my tooth today because one teeths has been infected.

13.

Change Singular Nouns to Plural Nouns

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Page 4.

Singular nouns are: 3, 4, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40

1 boxes 2 churches 3 juicy oranges 4 axes 5 toothbrushes 6 clean beaches 7 remotes 8 pineapples 9 monks 10 cups 11 watches 12 buses 13 branches 14 kisses 15 bridges 16 quizzes

Page 5.

1 skies 2 berries 3 armies 4 beauties 5 ponies 6 stories 7 duties 8 injuries 9 histories 10 cherries 11 fries 12 spies 13 bullies 14 theories 15 dictionaries

1 valleys 2 chimneys 3 volleys 4 kidneys 5 delays 6 donkeys 7 turkeys 8 plays 9 essays 10 joys

Page 6.

1 cities 2 memories 3 abbeys 4 families 5 pennies 6 journeys 7 boys 8 stories 9 bakeries 10 portrays 11 skies 12 surveys 13 fairies 14 Thursdays 15 trays 16 spies 17 trolleys 18 monkeys 19 valleys 20 armies 21 berries 22 essays 23 parties 24 holidays

Page 8.

1 kilos 2 cargos cargoes 3 mottos mottoes 4 heroes 5 pianos 6 vetoes 7 mangos mangoes 8 flamingos flamingoes 9 zoos 10 dominoes 11 volcanos volcanoes 12 photos 13 echoes 14 frescos frescoes 15 ghettos ghettos 16 mosquitos 17 embargoes 18 mementos mementoes 19 potatoes 20 torpedoes 21 solos 22 tomatoes 23 tornados tornadoes 24 tuxedos tuxedoes

Page 10.

1 knives 2 leaves 3 roofs 4 housewives 5 safes 6 calves 7 wolves 8 lives 9 halves 10 handcuffs 11 loaves 12 afterlives 13 sheaves 14 chiefs 15 giraffes 16 yourselves 17 wives 18 selves 19 thieves 20 proofs 21 elves 22 chefs 23 cliffs 24 shelves 25 midlives

Page 11.

1 children 2 feet 3 dresses 4 dictionaries 5 monkeys 6 people potatoes 7 knives toys 8 buses 9 volcanoes people

Page 12 and 13.

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