

Lesson 6 Common Nouns- Singular and Plural

Plural Noun Rules

The correct spelling of plurals usually depends on what letter the singular noun ends in.

1. To make regular nouns plural, add '-s' to the end.

book	books	cat	cats
chair	chairs	house	houses
picture	pictures	boat	boats
page	pages	day	days
key	keys	car	cars
computer	computers	word	words
hook	hooks	mile	miles
year	years	tree	trees
list	lists	line	lines
land	lands	song	songs
thing	things	plant	plants
face	faces	point	points
girl	girls	name	names
hand	hands	side	sides
paper	papers	number	numbers

2. If the singular noun ends in '-s', '-ss', '-sh', '-o', '-ch', '-x', or '-z', add '-es' to the end to make it plural.

class	classes	box	boxes
bus	buses	watch	watches
marsh	marshes	dress	dresses
lunch	lunches	pass	passes
tax	taxes	potato	potatoes
blitz	blitzes	branch	branches
mango	mangoes	brush	brushes
zero	zeroes	hero	heroes

3. If the noun ends with '-f' or '-fe', the f is changed to '-ve' before adding the '-s' to form the plural.

wife	wives	life	lives
wolf	wolves	shelf	shelves
knife	knives	thief	thieves
calf	calves	leaf	leaves

4. If a singular noun ends in '-y' and the letter before the '-y' is a consonant, change the ending to '-ies' to make plural.

city	cities	baby	babies
puppy	puppies	lady	ladies
duty	duties	fly	flies
army	armies	enemy	enemies
diary	diaries	library	libraries

5. If the singular noun ends in '-y' and the letter before the '-y' is a vowel, simply add an '-s' to make it plural.

ray	rays	monkey	monkeys
boy	boys	day	days
key	keys	toy	toys
tray	trays	play	plays

6. Some nouns don't change at all even when they are plurals.

sheep	sheep	series	series
species	species	deer	deer
pants	pants	scissors	scissors

7. Irregular nouns do not follow rules, so it is best to remember these

child	children
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man	men
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tooth	teeth
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mouse	mice
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goose	geese
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woman	women
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foot	feet
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person	people
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