



## KS2 Unit 6 Lesson 3 Choosing Words and Plurals

### Worksheet

Now that you have syllables made of consonants and vowels, you need to put them together to form **words**. You have already made a few words for things on your planet, but when we create a language, we have to make many words and you have to choose what your words will be like.

1. How do words in some languages become so long?

Answer: They consist of multiple **parts**. Let us look at Inuit.

*qarisaujat – tsiava – ralaag*

computer – good – small

`small good computer'

We call parts of words **morphemes**. Some morphemes can never be words by themselves but must appear with another morpheme. These are called **affixes**.

2. Let us look at Vietnamese: it has one morpheme per word. There are, therefore, lots of short words and no affixes.

**English** has a few morphemes per word. There are a good number of medium-length words and some affixes.

**Inuit** has lots of morphemes per word. There are a small number of very long words and a lot of affixes.

How long will the words in your language be?

Create 10 new words.

3. **Plurals**. Aliens have come to your planet! Monsters have come to your island!

Invent a few creatures of different types, in different numbers to populate your island. You might have a lot of sheep, but only one dragon, and a lot of aliens that tend the goats and defend them against the dragon.

Produce pictures and names for the creatures on your planet or island.



In English, we usually show the difference between one thing and more than one with **s** at the end of the word:

monster monster-**s**

dog dog-**s**

In other languages, you add different sounds. In Somali, you usually add **o**:

kab kab-**o**      naag naag-**o**

'shoe' 'shoes' 'woman' 'women'

Of course, English does other things too. You can't add **s** if the word ends in an **s** already, or a **z** or **sh**:

bus bus-**es**

brush brush-**es**

And some words are simply different! Some nouns don't change and some nouns add different sounds:

sheep      sheep

ox      ox-**en**

child      child-**ren**

In Turkish, some nouns add **-ler**:

kalem kalem-**ler**      göz göz-**ler**

'pen' 'pens'      'eye' 'eyes'

But other nouns add **-lar**:

kapı kapı-**lar**      araba araba-**lar**

'door' 'doors'      'car' 'cars'

In Vietnamese, you make a plural by using a separate word:

singular:      con gấu 'bear'

plural:      **nhung** con gấu 'bears'



In Swahili, words have a prefix that signifies whether it is singular or plural:

singular: mtu 'person'

plural: watu 'persons'

singular: rafiki 'friend'

plural: marafiki 'friends'

How will you create plurals?

Write down 10 plurals from the words you have already created.

Now pick at least two of your plurals and make it different from the others.

Translate these words into your language:

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| • Tree     | Trees     |
| • Mountain | Mountains |
| • Monster  | Monsters  |
| • Water    | Waters    |
| • River    | Rivers    |

Adapted with thanks from the Queen Mary Invented Languages Scheme materials, protected under CC-BY-NC.  
Thanks to Professor David Adger and Dr Coppe van Urksor at <https://creatinglanguages.org/>