

Language work: plurals

A Look at the HELP box and then write the plural of these words.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1 client _____ | 5 fax _____ |
| 2 key _____ | 6 salary _____ |
| 3 query _____ | 7 mouse _____ |
| 4 businessman _____ | 8 virus _____ |

HELP box

Plurals

- In most cases, we form the plural in English by adding **-s**.

record → *records*

- If a word ends in **-s**, **-sh**, **-x** or **-ch**, we add **-es**.

address → *addresses*

index → *indexes*

- If a word ends in a consonant + **y**, the **y** becomes **i** and we add **-es**.

company → *companies*

facility → *facilities*

- However, if the **y** follows a vowel, we add only **-s**.

birthday → *birthdays*

- There are several irregular plural forms:

man/woman → *men/women*

child → *children*

analysis → *analyses*

formula → *formulae* (or *formulas*)

criterion → *criteria*

mouse → *mice*

- The **-s** is pronounced as:

/s/ after one of these sounds: /p/, /t/, /k/, /f/ or /θ/
(e.g. *amounts*, *hyperlinks*)

/ɪz/ after one of these sounds: /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/ or /dʒ/
(e.g. *businesses*, *devices*, *images*)

/z/ in most other cases (e.g. *files*, *fields*, *customers*, *columns*)

B Put the plurals into the correct pronunciation column.

databases	passwords
laptops	graphs
orders	switches
taxes	networks
tables	packages
spreadsheets	systems

/s/	/ɪz/	/z/