

Learning

Basic

Grammar

***Start learning about the 8 parts of
speech, nouns, pronouns, verbs,
adjectives, adverbs, prepositions,
conjunctions, and interjections***

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1

What is Grammar?

Here's an old children's rhyme about the eight parts of speech of English grammar. It gives you an idea of what grammar is about. Read and remember it.



Noun

Every name is called a **noun**,
As *field* and *fountain*, *street* and *town*.

In place of noun the **pronoun** stands,
As *he* and *she* can clap their hands.

Pronoun



Adjective

The **adjective** describes a thing,
As *magic* wand or *bridal* ring.

Most **verbs** mean action, something done,
To *read* and *write*, to *jump* and *run*.

Verb

How things are done the **adverbs** tell,

As *quickly*, *slowly*, *badly*, *well*.

The **preposition** shows relation,
As *in* the street or *at* the station.

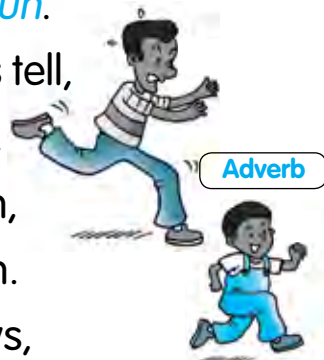
Conjunctions join, in many ways,

Sentences, words, *or* phrase *and* phrase.

The **interjection** cries out, "*Heed!*"

An exclamation point must
follow me!"

Adverb



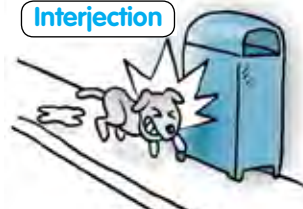
Preposition



Conjunction



Interjection



2

The Capital Letter

The **capital letter** is also called a **big letter** or **upper-case** letter, or sometimes just a **capital**.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

When do you use a capital letter?

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the first letter in a sentence:

The dog is barking.

Come here!

- ▶ Always use a capital letter for the word **I**:

I am eight years old.

Tom and **I** are good friends.

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the names of people:

Alice, **T**om, **J**ames, **K**im, **S**now **W**hite

- ▶ Use a capital letter for the names of places:

National **M**useum, **B**ronx **Z**oo, **L**ondon, **S**acramento

- ▶ Use a capital letter for festivals, holidays, days of the week, months of the year:

New **Y**ear's **D**ay, **C**hristmas, **L**abor **D**ay, **M**other's **D**ay,
Sunday, **M**onday, **F**riday, **J**anuary, **M**ay, **J**uly, **O**ctober



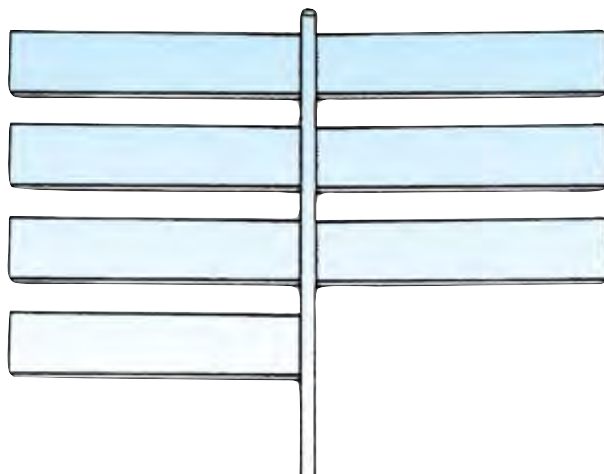
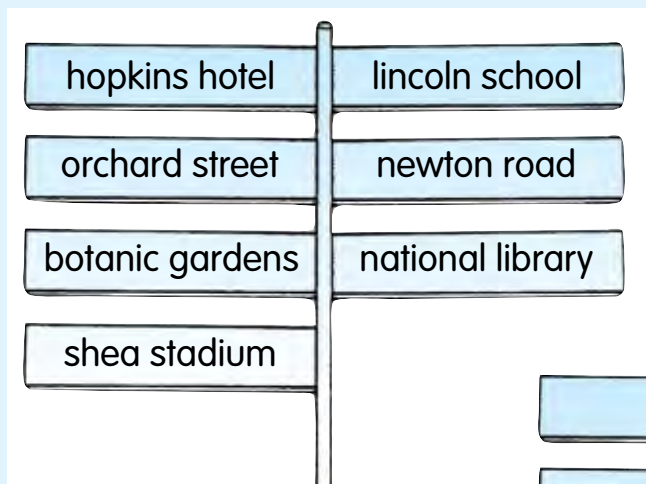
Exercise 1

Circle the letters that should be **CAPITALS**. Then write the correct letter in the space above them.

- 1 peter and i are good friends.
- 2 we are going to chicago during our summer vacation.
- 3 there is an interesting football game on sunday.
- 4 jason lives on thomson avenue.
- 5 january is the first month of the year.

Exercise 2

Look at the signs on the left. Can you find the mistakes? Write the names correctly.



3

Nouns

Common Nouns

Nouns are divided into **common nouns** and **proper nouns**. **Common nouns** are words for people, animals, places, or things.

These are words for people. They are common nouns.



artist

Word File

Here are more words for people:

actor	lawyer
aunt	judge
baby	man
baker	nurse
cook	police officer
dentist	singer
doctor	soldier
giant	teacher



clown

acrobat

astronaut



Another word for **astronaut** is **spaceman** or **spacewoman**.



These are words for animals. They are common nouns.

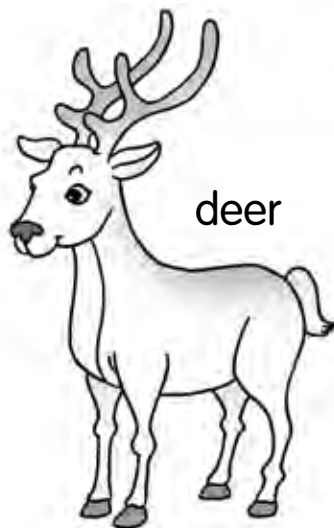
eagle



zebra



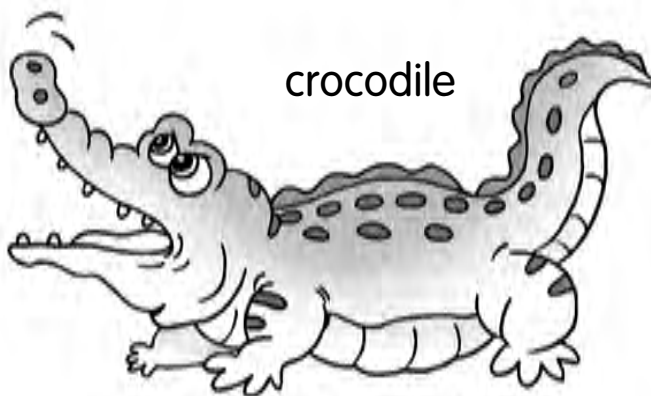
deer



bird



crocodile



bear



Word File

Here are more words for animals:

cat	goose
cow	hen
dog	horse
dolphin	mouse
duck	parrot
fish	shark
goat	whale

These are words for places. They are common nouns.



beach



park



library

shop



Word File

Here are more words for places:

airport	market
cave	mountain
church	playground
farm	restaurant
hill	school
hospital	seashore
hotel	stadium
house	supermarket
island	temple
mall	zoo

These are words for things. They are common nouns.



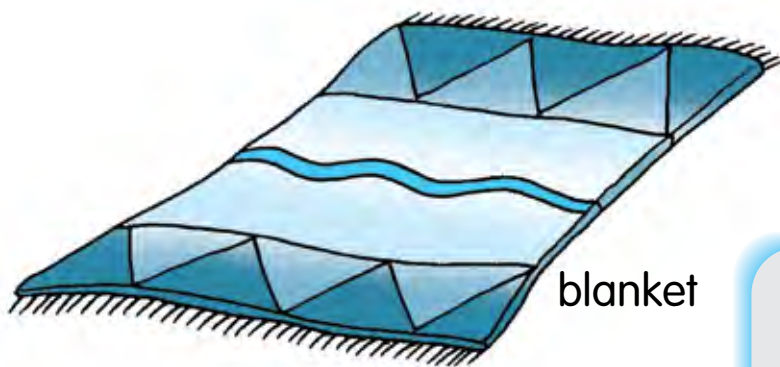
basket



bed



drum



blanket

cake



gate

Word File

Here are more words for things:

bag	kite
box	ladder
bread	lamp
can	picture
chair	radio
cot	television
cup	train
desk	truck
door	watch
egg	window

Exercise 1

Underline the common nouns in these sentences.

- 1 There's a little bird in the garden.
- 2 Who is your teacher?
- 3 Don't eat that rotten apple.
- 4 Kate has a lovely doll.
- 5 I like reading stories.
- 6 My father is a doctor.
- 7 Every child has a dictionary.
- 8 Rudy hates bananas.
- 9 The phone is ringing.
- 10 Here's a book for you.

Exercise 2

Here's a mixed bag of words. Put each word under its correct heading.

swimmer
letters
mountain
granny

snail
flag
fox
taxi

fire engine
river
hotel
gardener

clown
barber
parrot
camel

People

Animals

Places

Things

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Proper Nouns

Proper nouns are names for particular people, places or things. They always begin with a capital letter.



Omar



Beethoven



Lisa

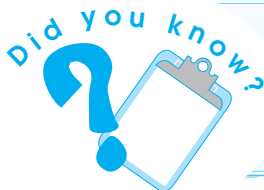
Santa Claus



Word File

Here are some more names of people:

Ali Baba
 Florence Nightingale
 Derek Jeter
 Pauline
 Johnny Depp
 Patrick
 Harry Potter
 Pinocchio
 Robin Hood



Your own name and the names of your friends are proper nouns too.



The names of countries and their people are also proper nouns.



American



Egyptian



Indian



Italian



Thai



Japanese



Korean



Malay



Filipino



Pakistani

Country

America
Egypt
India
Italy
Japan

People

Americans
Egyptians
Indians
Italians
the Japanese

Country

Korea
Malaysia
Pakistan
France
Thailand

People

Koreans
Malaysians
Pakistanis
the French
Thais

The names of towns, cities, buildings and landmarks are proper nouns.



Hong Kong



Egypt



the Great Wall of China



the Statue of Liberty



Tokyo



Sydney

Bangkok
London
New York
Paris
Beijing

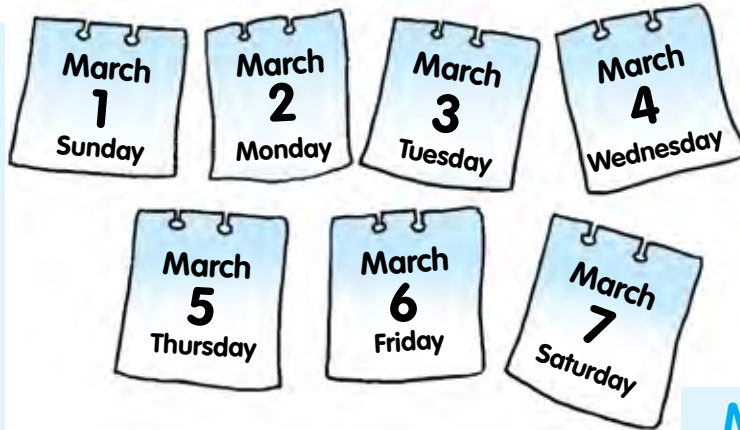
New Delhi
Denver
Central Park
the Eiffel Tower
Big Ben

the Grand Canyon
the Leaning Tower of Pisa
Brooklyn Bridge
Pike's Peak

The days of the week and months of the year are proper nouns.

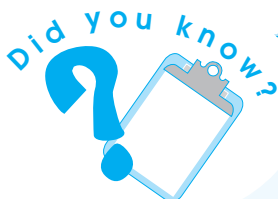
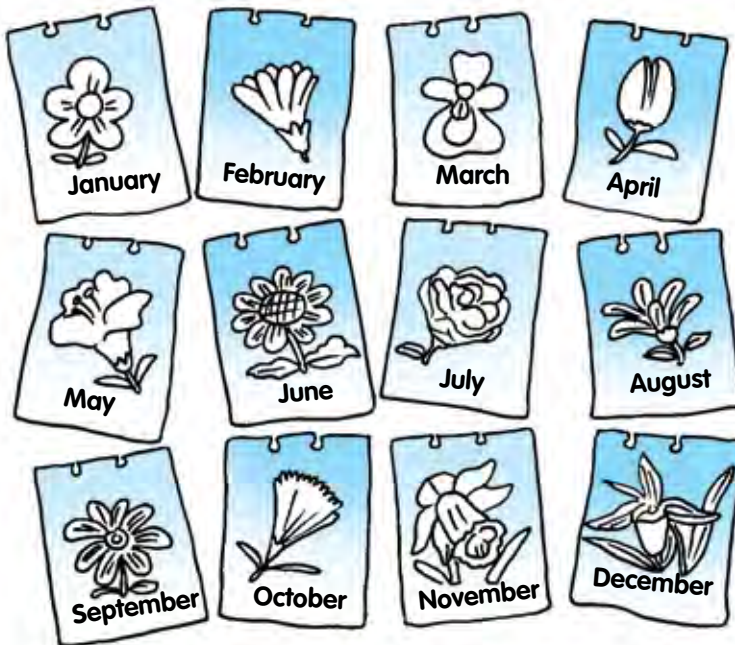
Days

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday



Months

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December



January is the first month of the year.

Sunday is the first day of the week.

A table that shows the months, weeks, days



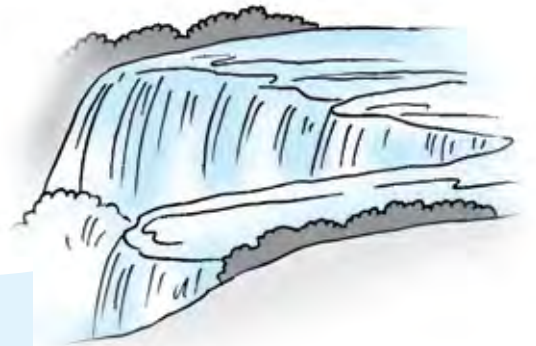
The names of mountains, seas, rivers and lakes are proper nouns.



the Thames



Mount Everest



Niagara Falls

Lake Michigan

the Alps

the Dead Sea

Mount Fuji

the Himalayas

the Pacific Ocean

the Yellow River



You often use **the** before names of oceans, rivers, seas and ranges of mountains.

Mount means **mountain**.

It is often used in the names of mountains.

For example: Mount Everest
Mount St. Helens

The written short form for **Mount** is **Mt.**

For example: Mt. Everest, Mt. Fuji



The names of festivals, some special events and holidays are proper nouns, too.



Valentine's Day



Father's Day



Halloween

Word File

Here are more names of festivals and holidays:

Christmas	Mother's Day
Memorial Day	April Fool's Day
Labor Day	Thanksgiving Day
Independence Day	St. Patrick's Day



New Year's Day

Exercise 1

Underline the *proper nouns* in the following sentences.

- 1 July is often the hottest month in summer.
- 2 One day Ali Baba saw the forty thieves hiding in a cave.
- 3 Shawn and Ashley are going to the beach for a swim.
- 4 Mr. Lee is reading a book.
- 5 "I am your fairy godmother," said the old woman to Cinderella.
- 6 Uncle Mike is a lawyer.
- 7 Next Tuesday is a public holiday.
- 8 Many children enjoyed the movie Lion King.

Exercise 2

Look at the words in the box. Which ones are *common nouns* and which ones are *proper nouns*? Put each word under its correct heading.

Lisa	bank	President Hotel	United Bank
January	beach	White Sand Beach	hotel
doctor	month	Dr. Wang	girl

Common Nouns

Proper Nouns

Exercise 3

Write **C** for *common* or **P** for *proper* on the blank before each noun.

- 1 _____ the White House
- 2 _____ the green dress
- 3 _____ the tall building
- 4 _____ the Empire State Building
- 5 _____ the Yellow River
- 6 _____ the muddy river
- 7 _____ the governor
- 8 _____ Governor Parker
- 9 _____ the Oregon Trail
- 10 _____ the winding trail

Exercise 4

Underline the nouns that should be capitalized. Circle the nouns that should *not* be capitalized.

- 1 Robert louis Stevenson wrote treasure island.
- 2 The Capital of illinois is Springfield.
- 3 My Friends and I prefer Glittergums toothpaste.
- 4 Their Family visited Yellowstone national Park.
- 5 Juan and maria attend kennedy Middle school.
- 6 We had a Surprise Party for aunt Helen.
- 7 Spring and Fall are my favorite Seasons.
- 8 The Manager scolded his lazy Employees.

Singular Nouns

Nouns can be **singular** or **plural**. When you are talking about one person, animal, place, or thing, use a singular noun.



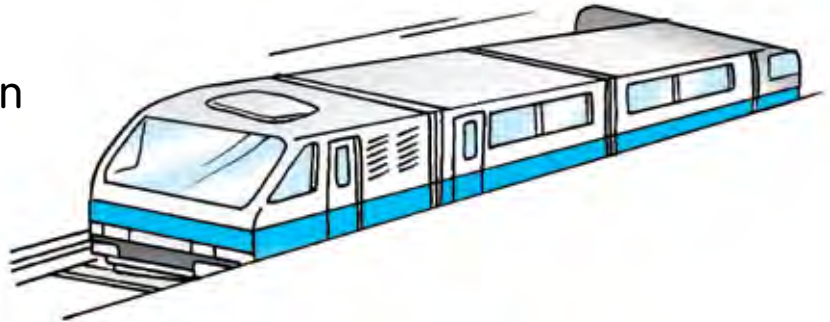
a ship

an owl



a woman

a train

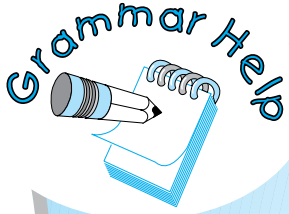


a flower

Word File

These are also singular nouns:

- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| an airplane | a letter |
| a bicycle | a map |
| a boy | a photograph |
| a bus | a refrigerator |
| a comb | a slide |
| a girl | a swing |
| a key | a van |



- ▶ Use **a** or **an** before singular nouns.
Use **an** before words beginning with **vowels** (a, e, i, o, u). For example, say:

an axe	an igloo
an egg	an orange
an envelope	an umbrella
an ice cream	an uncle

- ▶ But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **a** (not **an**) before these words that begin with **u**:

a uniform	a university
------------------	---------------------

- ▶ Use **a** before words beginning with the other letters of the alphabet, called **consonants**.
For example, say:

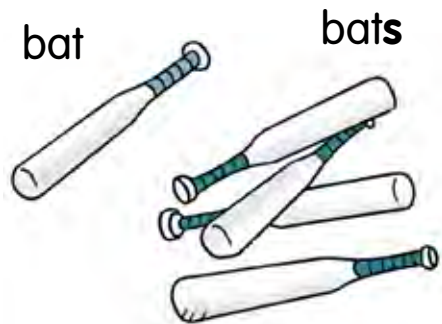
a basket	a rainbow
a bowl	a monster
a car	a pillow
a hill	a watch
a house	a zoo

- ▶ But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **an** (not **a**) before these words that begin with **h**:

an heir
an honor
an hour

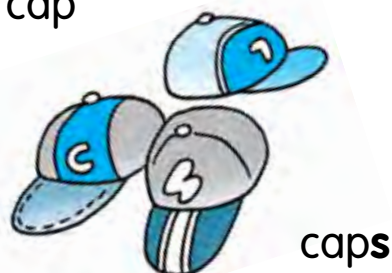
Plural Nouns

When you are talking about two or more people, animals, places, or things, use plural nouns.
Most nouns are made plural by adding **-s** at the end.



Word File

Singular	Plural
bird	birds
broom	brooms
camel	camels
desk	desks
doll	dolls
egg	eggs
flower	flowers
fork	forks
game	games
lamb	lambs
nest	nests
pen	pens
photo	photos
shirt	shirts
spoon	spoons



Some plural nouns end in **-es**.



bus



glass



brush



buses



glasses



brushes

watch



watches



fox



foxes

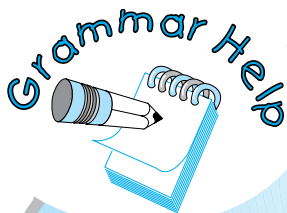
Word File

Singular

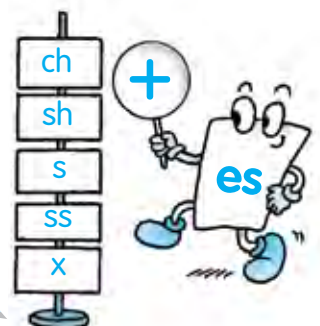
beach
branch
box
bush
church
dish
dress
sandwich
witch

Plural

beaches
branches
boxes
bushes
churches
dishes
dresses
sandwiches
witches



When the last letters of singular nouns are **ch, sh, s, ss** or **x**, you usually add **-es** to form the plural.



Some plural nouns end in **-ies**.

butterflies



butterfly



canary



canaries



Word File

Singular

baby
cherry
diary
dictionary
fairy
family
fly
lady
library
puppy
story
strawberry

Plural

babies
cherries
diaries
dictionaries
fairies
families
flies
ladies
libraries
puppies
stories
strawberries



lily

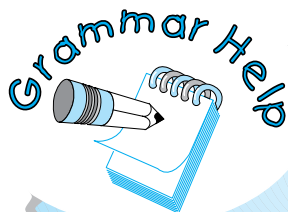
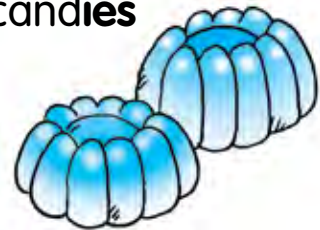


lilies

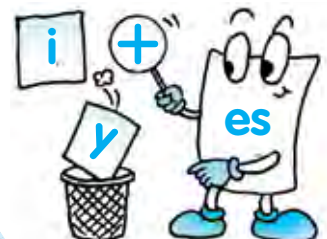


candy

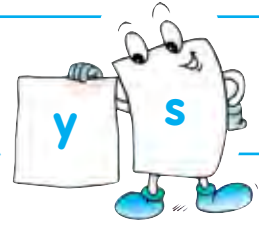
candies



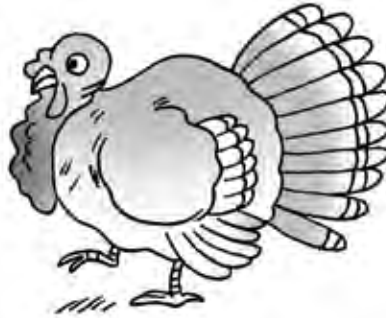
Nouns like these are made plural by changing **y** to **i**, and adding **-es**.



What if there is a vowel before the **y**?
In that case, add **-s** to form the plural.



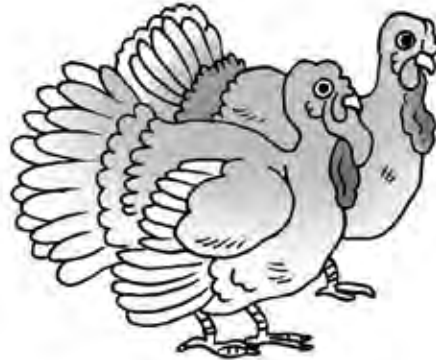
key



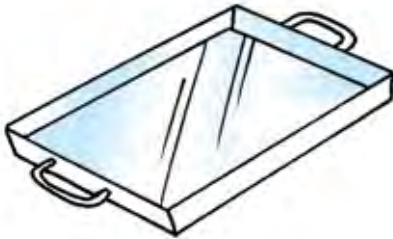
turkey



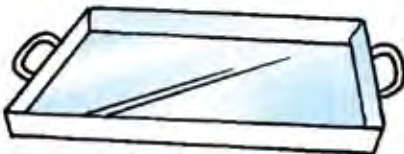
keys



turkeys



tray



trays



Word File

Singular

chimney
cowboy
day
donkey
jersey
kidney
monkey
toy
trolley
valley

Plural

chimneys
cowboys
days
donkeys
jerseys
kidneys
monkeys
toys
trolleys
valleys

If a noun ends in **-f**, you often change **f** to **v**, and add **-es**.

Singular

calf
elf
half
leaf

Plural

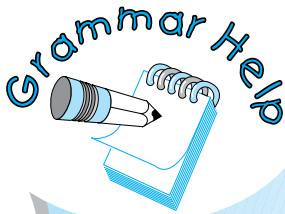
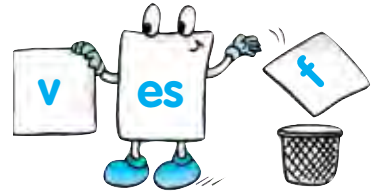
calves
elves
halves
leaves

Singular

loaf
shelf
thief
wolf

Plural

loaves
shelves
thieves
wolves



Often nouns that end in **-f**, just need **-s** to form the plural.

**Singular**

chef
chief
cliff

Plural

chefs
chiefs
cliffs

Singular

handkerchief
roof
sheriff

Plural

handkerchiefs
roofs
sheriffs

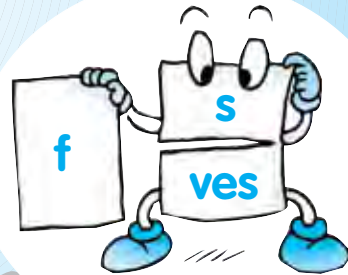
For some words that end in **-f**, the plural can be spelled in two different ways.

Singular

dwarf
hoof
scarf

Plural

dwarfs or dwarves
hoofs or hooves
scarfs or scarves



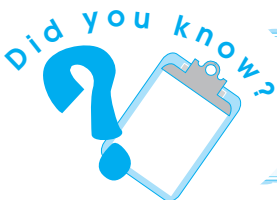
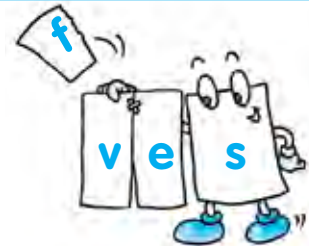
With some words that end in **-fe**, you change **f** to **v**, and add **-s**.

Singular

knife
life
wife

Plural

knives
lives
wives



But you only add **-s** to **giraffe** to form the plural.

If a noun ends in **-o**, you just add **-s** to form the plural.



a rhino



rhinos



a kangaroo



kangaroos

Word File

Singular

a hippo

a video

a zoo

Plural

hippos

videos

zoos

But with some nouns that end in **-o**, you add **-es** to form the plural.



a flamingo



flamingoes

Word File

Singular

a tomato

a potato

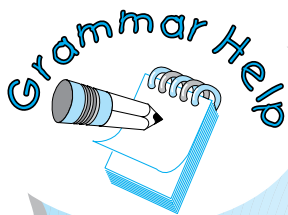
a hero

Plural

tomatoes

potatoes

heroes



With some nouns that end in **-o**, you can add either **-s** or **-es** to form the plural.

Singular

a mango

a mosquito

a zero

a buffalo

Plural

mangoes

mosquitoes

zeroes

buffaloes

Plural

mangos

mosquitos

zeros

buffalos

Some plural nouns don't follow the **-s** rule. They don't end in **-s**, **-es**, **-ies** or **-ves**. Instead, the word changes form.

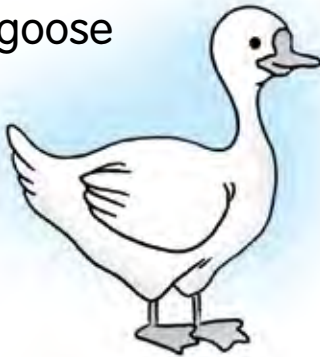


mouse

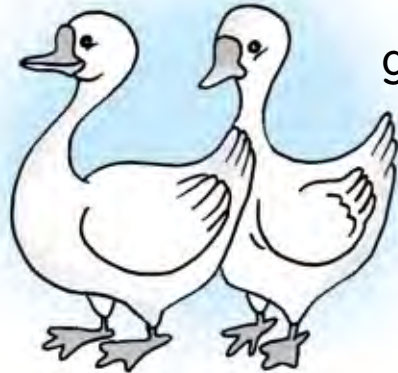


mice

goose



geese



Word File

Singular

child

man

ox

tooth

woman

Plural

children

men

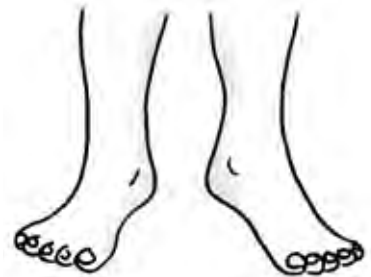
oxen

teeth

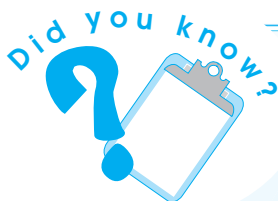
women



foot



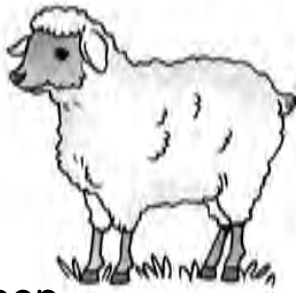
feet



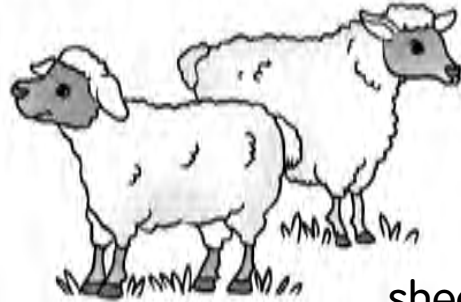
The plural of the **mouse** that you use with your computer is either **mice** or **mouses**.



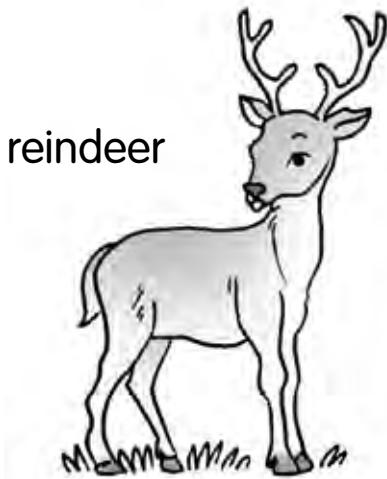
Some plural nouns are the same as the singular noun.



sheep



sheep



reindeer

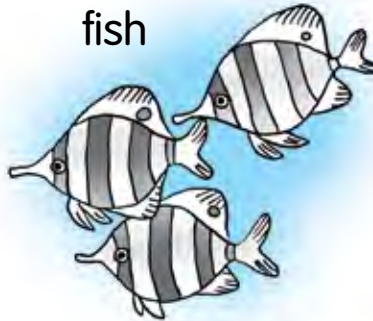


reindeer



fish

fish



Word File

Singular

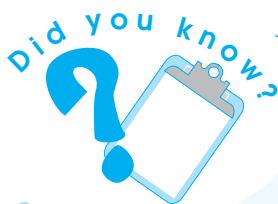
Plural

bison

bison

deer

deer



You can use **fishes** as the plural of **fish** when you are talking about different kinds of fish: all the **fishes** of the Pacific Ocean.



Some nouns are always plural.

binoculars



goggles



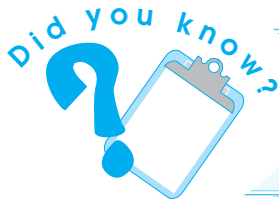
Word File

pants	scissors
pajamas	sneakers
shorts	slippers
trousers	stockings
sandals	

pliers



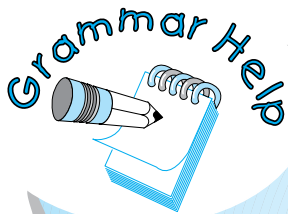
jeans



Another word for **spectacles** is **glasses**.



spectacles



You can make these plural nouns singular by using **a pair of**:

- a pair of binoculars
- a pair of spectacles
- a pair of goggles
- a pair of jeans
- a pair of shorts
- a pair of pliers



a pair of shoes

Exercise 1

Look at the words below. Do you know which ones are *singular* and which are *plural*? Put a checkmark (✓) in the correct box.

	Singular	Plural
word	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
pencils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
fan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
hat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
kites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
crab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
foxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Exercise 2

Do you add -s or -es to these singular nouns to make them plural? Write your answers on the lines.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 desk	_____	6 basket	_____
2 class	_____	7 peach	_____
3 comb	_____	8 belt	_____
4 mug	_____	9 taxi	_____
5 bus	_____	10 box	_____

Exercise 3

Do you change **-y** to **-ies**, or just add **-s** to make these singular nouns plural? Write your answers.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 key	_____	6 toy	_____
2 city	_____	7 baby	_____
3 butterfly	_____	8 party	_____
4 monkey	_____	9 chimney	_____
5 fly	_____	10 lady	_____

Exercise 4

All these singular nouns end with **-o**. Add either **-s** or **-es** as you write the plurals on the line.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 video	_____	6 radio	_____
2 piano	_____	7 hippo	_____
3 mango	_____	8 zoo	_____
4 kangaroo	_____	9 zero	_____
5 rhino	_____	10 photo	_____

Collective Nouns

Collective nouns are words for groups of people, animals or things.

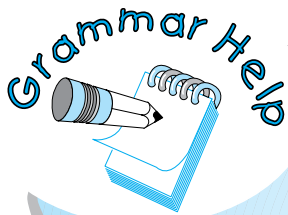
These are nouns for groups of people.



Word File

Here are some more groups of people:

an audience	a gang
a band	a group
a choir	a team
a class	



Many **collective nouns** can be used with a singular or plural verb.

For example:

My family **was** happy to see me.

or

My family **were** happy to see me.

But the following collective nouns always take a plural verb:

cattle

people

the police

Here are more collective nouns that are used for groups of people, animals or things.



a **band** of musicians



a **brood** of chickens



a **school** of fish

Word File

Here are some more collective nouns:

- a **bunch** of keys
- a **class** of pupils
- a **collection** of books
- a **deck** of cards
- a **fleet** of ships
- a **flock** of sheep
- a **gaggle** of geese
- a **gang** of robbers
- a **herd** of cattle
- a **litter** of cubs
- a **pod** of whales
- a **pack** of wolves
- a **pride** of lions
- a **set** of stamps
- a **swarm** of bees
- a **troupe** of actors



a **team** of players



a **flight** of steps

Exercise

Farmer John had *several different* kinds of animals on his farm. Write the correct *collective noun* for each group of his animals.



Farmer John had:

a _____ of geese

a _____ of sheep

a _____ of cattle

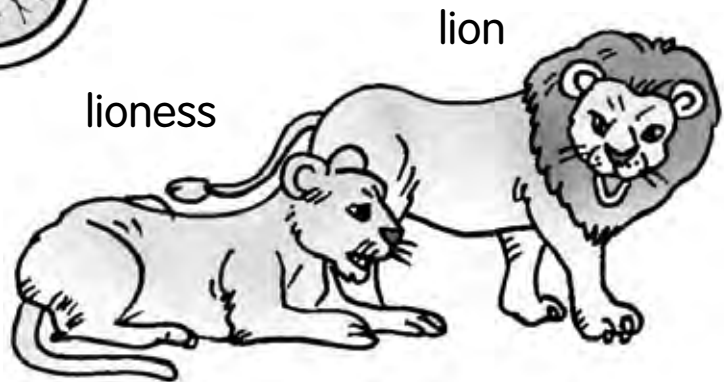
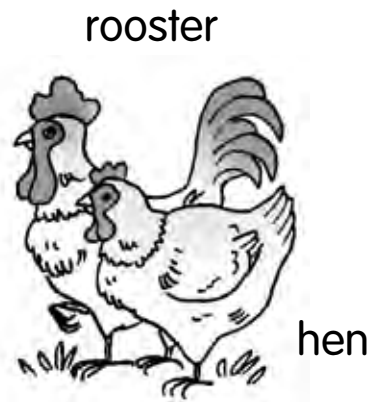
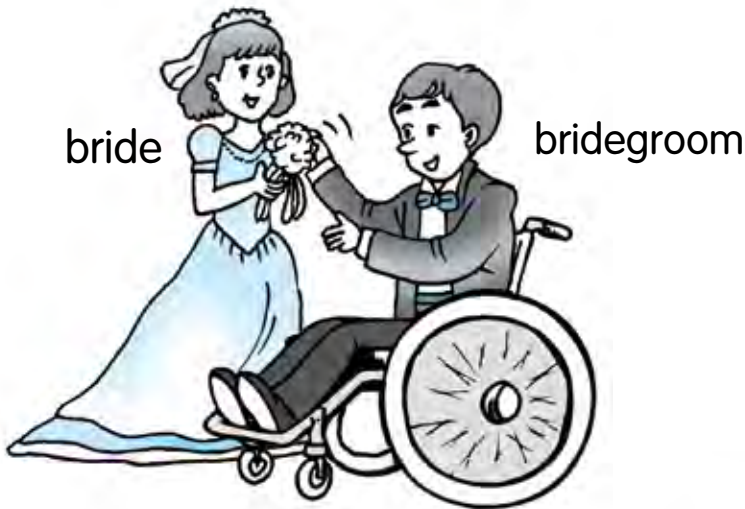
a _____ of horses

One day a _____ of coyotes tried to attack his animals. Farmer John yelled and waved a pitchfork to frighten them away.

Masculine and Feminine Nouns

Masculine nouns are words for men and boys, and male animals.

Feminine nouns are words for women and girls, and female animals.



Word File

Masculine

boy
man
prince
steward
waiter

Feminine

girl
woman
princess
stewardess
waitress