

**Second Edition** 

Chapter 4

Noun Functions and Plurals





### **Objectives**

- Identify proper and common nouns.
- Identify functions of nouns in sentences.
- Recognize the differences among singular, plural, and collective nouns.
- Form plurals of singular nouns, numbers, letters, and abbreviations.
- Form plurals of foreign and irregular nouns.





#### Classes of Nouns

Persons

**Places** 

**Things** 

**Activities** 

**Ideas and Qualities** 

assistant

Bill Gates

college

Switzerland

computer

e-mail

walking

singing

freedom

sincerity





### **Common and Proper Nouns**

### **Common Nouns**

- Refer to general persons, places, things, activities, ideas, or qualities
- Are not capitalized magazine employee dictionary

### **Proper Nouns**

- Refer to specific persons, places, things, activities, ideas, or qualities
- Are capitalized
   Wall Street
   January
   Grand Canyon





### **Functions of Nouns**

Singular or compound subject

Nouns often appear as singular or compound subjects of sentences. Their usual placement in the sentence is before the verb.

Many **people** use the Internet for research purposes. **George** and **Kim** work for an online clothing store.

Direct Object

A direct object often involves a noun that receives the action of a verb. A direct object appears after the verb. Direct objects may be singular or plural.

The administrator requested new computers.





#### continued

### **Functions of Nouns**

### Indirect Object

An indirect object usually appears before a direct object and directly after a verb in a sentence. Indirect objects usually follow verbs such as *buy, sell, send, ask, give.* 

I bought Laurie a docking station for her computer.

### Object of a Preposition

A prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, the object of the preposition, which is a noun or pronoun, and its modifiers. More that one prepositional phrase may appear in a sentence.

The seminar focused on using the Internet and its use in small businesses.



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# Noun Functions and Plurals



#### continued

### **Functions of Nouns**

### Subject Complement

A subject complement (predicate noun) follows a linking verb and renames the subject.

Alice Hampton is our help desk technician.

### Appositive

The term appositive means one noun renames another noun or pronoun. The appositive immediately follows the noun it renames.

Alice Hampton, our help desk **technician**, recommends that we update our software.







#### continued

#### **Functions of Nouns**

#### Direct Address

A noun in direct address names the individual being addressed.

**Tim**, please design new icons for our Website. We believe, **Tim**, that you know more about our Website than anyone else.



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# Noun Functions and Plurals



#### **Plural Forms of Nouns**

 Plural nouns name two or more persons, places, things, activities, ideas, or qualities.

To form plurals of most common and proper nouns, add **s** to the singular nouns.

File file**s** 

page pages

desk desk**s** 

keystroke keystrokes





### **Collective Nouns**

Collective nouns name a group of persons or things.

- If the group acts as a unit, the collective noun is singular.
  The department has recommended its selection for new database software.
- If the sentence implies that the members of a team, committee, etc., are acting individually, the collective noun is plural.

The committee received the surveys last week and were asked to return **their** responses today.





### Plurals of Nouns Ending in ...

ch

sh

S

X

or

Z

Add es

watch

watches

dish

dish**es** 

glass

glasses

box

boxes

waltz

waltz**es** 

**Exception** 

quiz

quizzes





## Plurals of Nouns Ending in . . . F, fe, or ff

- Many singular nouns require only an s for their plural forms.
- For other singular nouns, change the f or fe to ve and add an s.

```
belief beliefs shelf shelves wife wives
```

Both forms are acceptable for a few nouns.

wharf wharfs/wharves





### Plural Forms of Nouns . . .

When a noun ends in **y** and the letter before the **y** is a vowel, add an **s** to make the noun plural.

delay delays

key keys

boy boys

play plays

essay essay**s** 





### Plural Forms of Nouns . . .

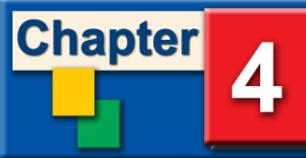
When a noun ends in **y** and the letter before the **y** is a consonant, change the **y** to **i** and add **es** to make the noun plural.

policies policies

copy copies

accessory accessories

facility facilities





#### Plural Forms of Nouns . . .

When the noun ends in **o** and is preceded by a vowel, add an **s** to form the plural.

stereo stereo**s** 

tattoo tattoos

portfolio portfolios

When the noun ends in **o** and is preceded by a consonant, add **s** or **es** to form the plural.

photo photos

potato potatoes







# Irregular Noun Plurals and Special Nouns

Some singular nouns have irregular plurals.

Singular	Plural
woman	women
foot	feet
mouse	mice
goose	geese
child	children
OX	oxen





continued

# Irregular Noun Plurals and Special Nouns

 Some nouns have the same singular and plural forms.

Singular Plural

deer deer

sheep sheep

moose moose

species species

series series





#### continued

# Irregular Noun Plurals and Special Nouns

 Some nouns that end in s look like plurals; but, depending on their use, they may have singular meanings.

news physics ethics politics

 Most nouns that represent ideas or qualities have no plural forms.

honesty integrity patience innocence

Some nouns are never singular.

proceeds savings goods earnings





### **Foreign Nouns**

- May use foreign or English plural forms.
- One form may be preferred over the other, or each form may have its own definition.

Foreign	Foreign	English
Singular	Plural	Plural
syllabus	syllabi (preferred)	syllabuses
census		censuses
index	indices (math)	indexes (books)
criterion	criteria (preferred)	criterions





### **Abbreviations**

 Most abbreviations form their plurals by adding s to the singular.

**Singular Abbreviation** 

apt.

bldg.

Dr.

Co.

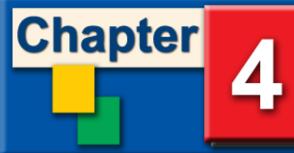
**Plural Abbreviation** 

apts.

bldgs.

Drs.

Cos.





### **Measurements**

 Most measurement abbreviations are the same in their singular and plural forms.

Singular Abbreviation		Plural Abbreviation	
foot	ft	feet	ft
ounce	OZ	ounces	OZ
pound	lb	pounds	lb





### **Numbers**

 Numbers expressed in figures form their plurals by adding s.

Singular Number
7 7s
1960 1960s
876s

 Numbers expressed in figures form their plurals by adding s.

Singular Number
forty
three
forty
forties
threes





### **Letters**

- Capital letters form their plurals by adding s.
- To avoid confusion, add an apostrophe before the s to the plurals of A, I, M, and U.
- To avoid confusion in meaning, all lowercase letters form their plurals by adding an apostrophe and s.

#### **Singular Letter**

D

A

#### **Plural Letter**

Ds

A's

i's



End of

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