

Irregular plurals

In order to change a singular noun to its plural form in English, you usually add "s".

EXAMPLES :

- Doctor → Doctors
- Patient → Patients

These are **regular plurals**.

But there are many nouns which don't follow this rule.

EXAMPLES :

- Woman → Women
- Child → Children

These are **irregular plurals**.

Irregular plurals:

Rule 1:

Some foreign nouns **retain** their plural, but some of them adapted the "**s**" of the English plural form.

EXAMPLES :

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Vertebra	Vertebrae / Vertebra s
Aorta	Aortae / Aorta s
Areola	Areolae / Areola s

Rule 2:

Nouns ending in "us" get "**i**" or the "**s**" of the English plural.

EXAMPLES :

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Stimulus	Stimuli
Embolus	Emboli
Fungus	Fungi / Fungus es

Rule 3:

Nouns ending in "um" get "**a**" or the "**s**" of the English plural.

EXAMPLES :

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Ovum	Ov <u>a</u>
Bacterium	Bacteri <u>a</u>
Symposium	Symposi <u>a</u> / Symposi <u>u</u> s

Rule 4:

Nouns ending in “ex” or “ix” get “ices” or get the “es” of the English plural.

EXAMPLES :

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Apex	Ap <u>ices</u> / Apex <u>es</u>
Cervix	Cervi <u>ces</u> / Cervix <u>es</u>
Appendix	Appendi <u>ces</u> / Appendix <u>es</u>

Rule 5:

Nouns ending in “is” get “es” in plural.

EXAMPLES :

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Diagnosis	Diagnos <u>es</u>
Thesis	Thes <u>es</u>
Axis	Ax <u>es</u>

Rule 6:

Nouns ending in “on” get “a”.

EXAMPLES :

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Phenomenon	Phenomen <u>a</u>
Criterion	Criteri <u>a</u>

Some words follow no particular rules, and change in spelling substantially when made plural.

EXAMPLES :

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
Child	Children
Woman	Women
Person	People

Unchanging nouns:

Some nouns don't take the "s" of the plural and are always singular.

EXAMPLES :

- The pregnant woman has already lost too much **blood**.
- I learned more **information** about contraceptive methods by asking my gynecologist.

Some nouns appear to be plural in form but take a singular verb.

EXAMPLES :

- **Obstetrics** is a very interesting medical field.
- The results came back, and the **news** is bad.