

Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Singular and Plural Nouns

Spelling Rules for Plural Nouns

1. For most nouns, add **-s** to the singular noun.

desk/desks toy/toys car/cars book/books voice/voices cat/cats

2. For nouns ending in **-s, -z, -sh, or -ch**, add **-es** to the singular noun.

class/classes quiz/quizzes wish/wishes watch/watches bus/buses mass/masses

3. For nouns ending in **-f**, change **-f** to **-v** and add **-es**.

wife/wives leaf/leaves scarf/scarves knife/knives loaf/loaves

(Note: There are several exceptions to this rule: *beliefs, roofs, cliffs, cuffs, chiefs*)

4. For nouns ending in a **consonant + y**, change the **-y** to **-i** and add **-es**.

story/stories fry/fries bully/bullies pony/ponies spy/spies

5. For nouns ending in a **vowel + y**, just add **-s**.

delay/delays day/days toy/toys survey/surveys play/plays

6. Some nouns ending in **-o** form their plural by adding **-es**. Others just add **-s**.

tomato/tomatoes hero/heroes potato/potatoes zoo/zoos zero/zeros

Irregular Plural Nouns

1. Several nouns have irregular plural forms:

child/children	foot/feet	goose/geese	louse/lice	man/men
woman/women	mouse/mice	ox/oxen	person/people	tooth/teeth

2. A few nouns, mostly of Latin origin, have irregular plural forms:

us / i	sis / ses	parenthesis/parentheses	um, on / a
alumnus/alumni	analysis/analyses	thesis/theses	bacterium/bacteria
cactus/cacti	axis/axes		criterion/criteria
focus/foci	crisis/crises	ix / ices	datum/data
nucleus/nuclei	diagnosis/diagnoses	appendix/appendices	memorandum/memoranda
stimulus/stimuli	oasis/oases	index/indices	phenomenon/phenomena

3. Several nouns do not change in the plural.

deer/deer fish/fish offspring/offspring sheep/sheep species/species

Pronunciation of Final **-s** and **-es** for Plural Nouns

Noun Ending Sound	Plural Pronunciation	Examples
voiceless: /f/, /k/, /p/, /t/, /θ/	/s/	cuffs, books, cups, boats, months
voiced: /b/, /d/, /g/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /r/, /ð/, /v/, all vowel sounds	/z/	cabs, beds, dogs, jewels, combs, pens, things, years, paths, knives, agendas
/s/, /z/, /dʒ/, /ʒ/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/	/ɪz/	faces, sizes, pages, garages, dishes, watches

Exercise 1:*Write the plural of the following nouns.*

1. colony _____

2. dictionary _____

3. fairy _____

4. donkey _____

5. berry _____

6. artery _____

7. Monday _____

8. similarity _____

9. holiday _____

10. essay _____

Exercise 2:*Write the plural of the following nouns.*

1. army _____

2. quarry _____

3. navy _____

4. query _____

5. raspberry _____

6. party _____

7. Friday _____

8. city _____

9. decoy _____

10. monkey _____

Exercise 3:

Write the plural of each noun. Then say the plural noun aloud. Check the correct pronunciation box for each one.

Singular	Plural	/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
1. cup				
2. shoe				
3. page				
4. disk				
5. teacher				
6. film				
7. month				
8. Monday				
9. class				
10. minute				

Exercise 4:

Write the plural of each noun. Then say the plural noun aloud. Check the correct pronunciation box for each one.

Singular	Plural	/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
1. mass				
2. biscuit				
3. gas				
4. knife				
5. coat				
6. dog				
7. dash				
8. delay				
9. bridge				
10. song				

Exercise 10:

Correct the mistakes in the following sentences. Write the correct sentences in the blanks.

1. Six childrens in Ms. Thompson's class had head louse yesterday.

2. The doctors conducted many analyses before they made their two diagnosi.

3. Henrietta's beliefes are very conservative.

4. Nancy cut both her foots on two large cactuses.

5. George caught six fishes on the trip.

6. Are you mens or mouses?

7. We cut the oranges in halves and then ate it.

8. Rain is a rather rare phenomena in the Sahara region.

9. We have many datum concerning the four crisis facing the government.

10. Volcanos are very common in Iceland.
