Spelling Rule Exceptions for Plural Nouns: Words That End in F and EF



A plural noun means more than one. The word *bag* means one bag; the word *bags* means more than one bag. To make an English noun plural, we usually (but not always!) add an *s* to the end of the noun. An exception to this rule is when a word ends in *f* or *fe*. We sometimes change the *f* or *fe* to *v* and add -es to make a plural word. A writer must learn when to change the *f* or *fe*.

Read each word very carefully. Write the plural form of each of the following nouns.

1. life	11. loaf
2. wolf	12. shelf
3. self	13. thief
4. cafe	14. knife
5. cliff	15. giraffe
6. wife	16. safe
7. gulf	17. calf
8. elf	18. chief
9. leaf	19. half
10. roof	20. chef

Name:	Key	
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3. self	selves	13. thief	thieves
4. cafe	cafes	14. knife	knives
5. cliff	cliffs	15. giraffe	giraffes
6. wife	<u>wives</u>	16. safe	safes
7. gulf	gulfs	17. calf	calves
8. elf	elves	18. chief	chiefs
9. leaf	leaves	19. half	<u>halves</u>
10. roof	roofs	20. chef	<u>chefs</u>