

Plural Nouns

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There are several regular ways to make plurals.

There are many irregular plural forms.

Some plurals are treated like a single item.

Plural Nouns - Regular

There are several regular ways to make plurals and they depend on the ending of the word.

Most nouns

Nouns ending in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch' and 'sh'

Nouns ending in 'y'

Nouns ending in 'f' or 'fe'

Plural Nouns – Regular #1

Most noun are made plural by simply adding an 's'.

- one cat, two cats
- one dog, three dogs
- one boat, many boats
- one house, several houses
- one cup, two cups

Plural Nouns – Regular #2

Nouns ending in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch', 'sh' and 'ss' are made plural by adding 'es'.

This is only done to make pronunciation easier.

- one bus, two buses
- one box, three boxes
- one waltz, two waltzes (although quiz -> quizzes)
- one beach, many beaches (however, a hard 'ch' (as in stomach) just add 's')
- one bush, several bushes
- one boss, too many bosses

Plural Nouns – Regular #3

Nouns ending in 'y' have two options.

If the letter before the 'y' is a vowel, we simply add an 's'.

- one key, two keys
- one boy, three boys

Otherwise we replace the 'y' with 'ies'.

- one berry, two berries
- one fly, many flies

Plural Nouns – Regular #4

Nouns ending in 'f' or 'fe' have two options.

If there are two vowels before the last 'f', we usually add an 's'.

- one chief, two chiefs (but one thief, two thieves)
- one roof, three roofs

Otherwise we usually replace the 'f' or 'fe' with 'ves'.

- one knife, two knives (but one safe, two safes)
- one half, several halves

Unfortunately, there is no firm rule and the plural form needs to be remembered.

Plural Nouns - Irregular

There are many irregular plural forms.

Some have different plural forms.

Some have the same plural as the singular.

Plural Nouns – Irregular #1

Some have different plural forms.

- one man, two men
- one woman, three women
- one child, four children
- one mouse, many mice
- one goose, several geese
- one foot, three feet
- one tooth, several teeth

Plural Nouns – Irregular #2

Some have the same plural as the singular.

- one sheep, two sheep
- one fish, three fish
- one aircraft, many aircraft
- one deer, several deer
- one bison, two bison

Plural Nouns – Verb Agreement

Most plurals take a plural verb form.

- The peasants are revolting.
- Many roads lead to Rome.
- Your trousers are too tight.

Some plurals are used with a singular verb form.

- The news is on at 9 o'clock in the evening.
- Darts is a popular pub game in England.
- Mathematics is not always hard.