

In this lesson you will learn the rest of the rules for spelling plural nouns.

	Rule	Examples
Nouns that end in <i>vowel</i> + <i>y</i>	Add <i>s</i> to form the plural.	<i>donkey</i> ⇒ <i>donkeys</i> <i>highway</i> ⇒ <i>highways</i>
Nouns that end in <i>vowel</i> + <i>o</i>	Add <i>s</i> to form the plural.	<i>oreo</i> ⇒ <i>oreos</i> <i>scenario</i> ⇒ <i>scenarios</i>
Nouns that end in <i>consonant</i> + <i>y</i>	Change the <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>es</i> to form the plural.	<i>family</i> ⇒ <i>families</i> <i>trophy</i> ⇒ <i>trophies</i>
Nouns that end in <i>consonant</i> + <i>o</i>	<p><u>Easy rule:</u> Usually add <i>es</i> except for musical terms.</p> <p><u>Complicated rule:</u> Some nouns that end in consonant + <i>o</i> add <i>es</i>. Many can be spelled either way. Look in the dictionary if you want to be sure.</p> <p>These nouns always add <i>es</i>: potato, tomato, hero, echo, banjo, embargo, veto, torpedo.</p> <p>Here are the preferred spellings of some plural nouns: buffaloes, dominoes, mosquitoes, volcanoes, tornadoes, ghettos, mangos, mottos, cargos, halos, mementos.</p>	<p><u>Regular examples:</u> <i>potato</i> ⇒ <i>potatoes</i> <i>dingo</i> ⇒ <i>dingoes</i> <i>piano</i> ⇒ <i>pianos</i> <i>soprano</i> ⇒ <i>sopranos</i></p>

The chart below explains some exceptions to the rules.

	Exceptions	Examples
Words from foreign languages, including musical terms	Simply add <i>s</i> .	<i>taco</i> ⇒ <i>tacos</i> <i>kimono</i> ⇒ <i>kimonos</i> <i>aria</i> ⇒ <i>arias</i>
Words that are proper nouns	Simply add <i>s</i> .	<i>Eskimo</i> ⇒ <i>Eskimos</i> <i>Picasso</i> ⇒ <i>Picassos</i>
Words that are short forms of longer words	Simply add <i>s</i> .	<i>photo</i> (photograph) ⇒ <i>photos</i> <i>kilo</i> (kilogram) ⇒ <i>kilos</i> <i>memo</i> (memorandum) ⇒ <i>memos</i>
Hint: If a musical term or proper noun ends in <i>s</i> still add <i>es</i>.		<i>chorus</i> ⇒ <i>choruses</i> <i>Jones</i> ⇒ <i>Joneses</i>

HINT: Are you confused yet? The easiest way to handle the plural nouns in this lesson is to remember a few shortcuts:

- Memorize the short list of words that must end in **es**.
- Add **es** to words that end in **consonant + o**.
- For words that end in **consonant + y**, change **y** to **i** and add **es**.
- Remember that foreign words usually end in **s**, not **es**.