

Quarter: fourth part. -- Quarters: (1) fourth parts; (2) lodgings.

Spectacle: a sight. -- Spectacles: (1) sights; (2) eye-glasses.

Letter: (1) letter of the alphabet; (2) epistle -- Letters: (1) letters of the alphabet; (2) epistle; (3) literature.

Ground: (1) earth; (2) reason -- Grounds: (1) enclosed land attached to house. (2) reason; (2) reasons; (3) dregs.

44. Some nouns have different meanings in the singular and the plural.

Singular -- Plural

Advice: counsel. -- Advices: information.

Air: atmosphere. -- Airs: affected manners.

Good: benefit, well-being. -- Goods: merchandise.

Compass: extent, range. -- Compasses: an instrument for drawing circles.

Respect: regard. -- Respects: compliments.

Page 15

Physic: medicine. -- Physics: natural science.

Iron: a kind of metal. -- Irons: fetters.

Force: strength. -- Forces: troops.

45. Letters, figures and other symbols are made plural by adding an apostrophe and s; as,
There are more e's than a's in this page.

Dot your i's and cross your t's.

Add two 5's and four 2's.

46. It is usual to say

The Miss Smiths. (Singular, Miss Smith.)

47. Abstract Nouns have no plural. They are uncountable.

Hope, charity, love, kindness.

When such words do appear in the plural, they are used as countables; as

Provocations = instances or cases of provocation.

Kindnesses = acts of kindness.

Names of substances are also uncountables and are not therefore used in the plural.

Copper, iron, tin, wood.

When such words are used in the plural, they become countables with changed meanings; as,
Coppers = copper coins; irons = fetters; tins = cans made of tin; woods = forests. A

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CHAPTER 8