

FORMING THE PLURAL OF NOUNS

1. Most nouns become plural by adding the letter *s* to the singular.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>boy</i>	<i>boys</i>	<i>machine</i>	<i>machines</i>
<i>book</i>	<i>books</i>	<i>door</i>	<i>doors</i>

2. For words ending in *s*, *x*, *z*, *sh*, or *ch*, you must add *es* to form the plural.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>dress</i>	<i>resses</i>	<i>topaz</i>	<i>topazes</i>
<i>glass</i>	<i>glasses</i>	<i>bush</i>	<i>bushes</i>
<i>box</i>	<i>boxes</i>	<i>bunch</i>	<i>bunches</i>

3. **“Y” ending plurals:** If a noun ends in *y* and is preceded by a consonant, change the *y* to *i* and add *es*.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>history</i>	<i>histories</i>	<i>city</i>	<i>cities</i>
<i>baby</i>	<i>babies</i>	<i>laundry</i>	<i>laundries</i>

4. **“O” ending plurals:** If a noun ends in *o* and is preceded by a consonant, add *es*

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>tomato</i>	<i>tomatoes</i>	<i>hero</i>	<i>heroes</i>
<i>potato</i>	<i>potatoes</i>	<i>echo</i>	<i>echoes</i>

NOTE: There are several exceptions to this rule including: *solo*, *solos*; *piano*, *pianos*; *soprano*, *sopranos*; *alto*, *altos*; *silo*, *silos*.

If a noun ends in *o* and is preceded by a vowel, add *s* to form the plural.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>cameo</i>	<i>cameos</i>	<i>radio</i>	<i>radios</i>
<i>igloo</i>	<i>igloos</i>	<i>duo</i>	<i>duos</i>

5. **“F” or “Fe” ending plurals:** To form the plural of a noun ending in *f* or *fe*, change the *f* to *v* and add *es*.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>calf</i>	<i>calves</i>	<i>shelf</i>	<i>shelves</i>
<i>knife</i>	<i>knives</i>	<i>life</i>	<i>lives</i>

NOTE: The following are common exceptions to this rule.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>dwarf</i>	<i>dwarfs/dwarves</i>	<i>safe</i>	<i>safes</i>
<i>roof</i>	<i>roofs</i>	<i>chief</i>	<i>chiefs</i>
<i>scarf</i>	<i>scarfs/scarves</i>	<i>belief</i>	<i>beliefs</i>

WORDS WITH IRREGULAR PLURALS

Here are twelve words for which there are no set rules for forming their plurals. Some of these words do not change at all in becoming plural. Be careful of these words, for they are used incorrectly a great deal of the time.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>man</i>	<i>men</i>	<i>ox</i>	<i>oxen</i>
<i>woman</i>	<i>women</i>	<i>tooth</i>	<i>teeth</i>
<i>sheep</i>	<i>sheep</i>	<i>moose</i>	<i>moose</i>
<i>mouse</i>	<i>mice</i>	<i>deer</i>	<i>deer</i>
<i>foot</i>	<i>feet</i>	<i>child</i>	<i>children</i>
<i>goose</i>	<i>geese</i>	<i>trout</i>	<i>trout</i>

NOUNS ALWAYS IN PLURAL FORM

Some nouns are always written in the plural form. The more commonly used ones are:

<i>scissors</i>	<i>oats</i>	<i>economics</i>	<i>series</i>	<i>eyeglasses</i>
<i>news</i>	<i>shears</i>	<i>proceeds</i>	<i>thanks</i>	

PLURAL FORM BUT SINGULAR MEANING

There are several nouns which are plural in form but have a singular meaning. (Watch verb agreement with these nouns.)

<i>civics</i>	<i>news</i>	<i>measles</i>	<i>headquarters</i>
<i>politics</i>	<i>mumps</i>	<i>physics</i>	

NOTE: Some nouns have unusual plural forms. For example:

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
<i>man-of-war</i>	<i>men-of-war</i>	<i>cupful</i>	<i>cupsful</i>
<i>mother-in-law</i>	<i>mothers-in-law</i>	<i>attorney general</i>	<i>attorneys general</i>