

Plural of Nouns

Singular Noun Definition: when a noun means one thing only, it is said to be singular

Examples: boy, girl, book, church, box.

Plural Nouns Definition: when a noun means more than one thing, it is said to be plural.

Examples: boys, girls, books, churches, boxes.

Rule 1

The plural of nouns is usually formed by adding **s** to a singular noun.

Example: lamp, lamps; cat, cats; fork, forks; flower, flowers; pen, pens

Rule 2

Nouns ending in **s, z, x, sh** and **ch** form the plural by adding **es**.

Example: moss, mosses; buzz, buzzes; box, boxes; dish, dishes; church, churches

Rule 3

Nouns ending in **y** preceded by a consonant form the plural by changing the **y** to **ies**.

Example: lady, ladies; city, cities; army, armies

Rule 4

Nouns ending in **y** preceded by a vowel form the plural by adding **s**.

Boy, boys; day, days

Rule 5

Most nouns ending in **o** preceded by a consonant form the plural by adding **es**.

Example: hero, heroes; grotto, grottoes.

Motto, calico, buffalo, potato, tomato

* may add s or es

The following are among those that add **s** only

Piano, solo, canto, lasso, halo, memento, albino, sirocco

N.B Most nouns ending in **o** preceded by a vowel form the plural by adding **s**

Example: folio, folios; cameo, cameos; studio, studios; portfolio, portfolios.

Rule 6

Some nouns ending **f, fe** form the plural by changing **f** or **fe** to **ves**.

Example: beef, **beeves**; wife, **wives**

Irregular Plurals

Some plurals are formed by changing the vowel sound.

Example: Man, **men**; foot, **feet**; mouse, **mice**; woman, **women**; tooth, **teeth**; louse, **lice**; child, **children**; ox, **oxen**; goose, **geese**.

Task 1: Write the plural form of these nouns.

Calf	Play
Leaf	Self
Life	toy
Day	Turkey
Gulf	Wolf
Essay	Knife
Elf	wife
Cherry	glass
Star	thief

Task 2: Complete these sentences with the plural form of the nouns between brackets.

1. I like..... and
(orange/apple/peach/strawberry)
2. They have got four....., two.....and two
..... (child/girl/boy).
3. When he fell over, he broke two of his(tooth)
4. Do you know thoseover there? (person)
5. We have got some.....and, but we haven't got any
.....(egg/ tomato/potato/).