

RULES

CLAS COPY!

Lesson Four: Forming the Plural of Nouns

1. *Most nouns form their plurals by simply adding an s.*

Singular			Plural
boat	+ s	=	boats
lawyer	+ s	=	lawyers
germ	+ s	=	germs
judge	+ s	=	judges
cow	+ s	=	cows
job	+ s	=	jobs

A number of other nouns, however, form their plurals in several different ways. If you can get these differences down, it will help you a great deal with your spelling.

2. *The plurals of nouns ending in s, sh, ch, x, and z are formed by adding es.*

Singular			Plural
box	+ es	=	boxes
class	+ es	=	classes
ditch	+ es	=	ditches
flash	+ es	=	flashes
fizz	+ es	=	fizzes

3. *Nouns ending in y preceded by a consonant form their plurals by changing the y to i and adding es.*

Singular			Plural
city	change y to i + es	=	cities
baby	change y to i + es	=	babies
company	change y to i + es	=	companies

4. *For nouns ending in y preceded by a vowel (a, e, i, o, u), just add an s to form their plurals.*

Singular			Plural	Note: Exceptions to the rule are:
toy	+ s	=	toy	soliloquy soliloquies
monkey	+ s	=	monkeys	colloquy colloquies
day	+ s	=	days	
buy	+ s	=	buys	

5. *Most nouns ending in o add an s to form their plurals,*

Singular			Plural
rodeo	+ s	=	rodeos
radio	+ s	=	radios
duo	+ s	=	duos
trio	+ s	=	trios
piano	+ s	=	pianos
solo	+ s	=	solos
auto	+ s	=	autos

but some of them will add an es

Singular			Plural
tomato	+ es	=	tomatoes
potato	+ es	=	potatoes
hero	+ es	=	heroes
echo	+ es	=	echoes

6. *The plurals of most nouns ending in f are made by adding an s.*

Singular		Plural
staff	+ s =	staffs
chief	+ s =	chiefs
proof	+ s =	proofs
sheriff	+ s =	sheriffs

7. *Some nouns ending in f or fe, however, form their plurals by changing the f or fe to ve and adding an s. Memorize the plurals of these words.*

Singular	Plural
elf	elves
life	lives
wolf	wolves
knife	knives
loaf	loaves
thief	thieves
wife	wives
leaf	leaves

8. *Some nouns use the same word in the singular and the plural. Memorize them.*

Singular		Plural
fish	nothing added =	fish
deer	nothing added =	deer
sheep	nothing added =	sheep
Chinese	nothing added =	Chinese
cattle	nothing added =	cattle
Portuguese	nothing added =	Portuguese
trout	nothing added =	trout
moose	nothing added =	moose

9. *There are a few nouns in which the plural is formed in an irregular manner and spelled differently from the singular. Memorize these common words.*

Singular		Plural
man	=	men
woman	=	women
child	=	children
foot	=	feet
goose	=	geese
mouse	=	mice
tooth	=	teeth

Name: _____ Per: _____

USE The Rules sheet!

Lesson Four: Plural of Nouns

Plural Nouns Practice 1

Write the correct plural form for each noun.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
loaf		judge	
woman		country	
knife		fox	
monkey		marsh	
fish		boy	
cow		wife	
church		buzz	
rodeo		pass	
tomato		journey	
witch		radio	

Plural Nouns Practice 2

Write the correct plural form for each noun.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
desk		echo	
clutch		goose	
wish		deer	
army		lasso	
thief		piano	
patio		child	
tooth		cupful	
cry		proof	
sheep		baby	
leaf		shelf	

Plural Nouns Practice 3

Write the correct plural form for each noun.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
pulley		alley	
buzz		knife	
machine		Eskimo	
porch		clutch	
ally		planet	
box		sphinx	
thief		dance	
piano		mix	
foot		dash	
sheep		bruise	

Plural Nouns Practice 4

Write the correct plural form for each noun.

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
push		loaf	
elf		soprano	
foodstuff		tray	
domino		chief	
essay		joy	
hoax		torpedo	
pinch		solo	
play		flash	
fox		sombrero	