

A dog howled, ~~braeking~~ the
comma → breaking

stillness. Someone was behind me...
period ← ellipsis

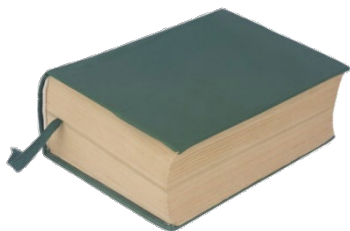
Plurals



Most **nouns** have a **singular form** and a **plural form**.

To make the plural form of a noun we often just add 's'.

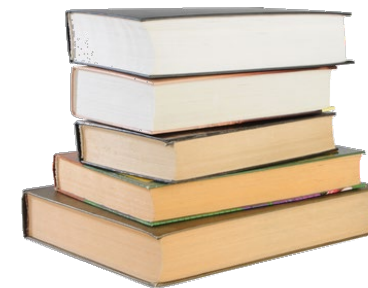
For example:



book



books



burger



burgers



apple



apples



This way of making plurals is simple.

Can you think of any other ways to make plurals?

For some nouns we add 'es' rather than 's' to form the plural.

Do you know when we add 'es' rather than 's'?

We add 'es' to nouns with these endings:

s, x, ch, sh, ss

For example:

buses **coaches** **kisses**
foxes **dishes**



Can you think of another word that is made into a plural by adding 'es' to the end of it?

Adding an extra syllable makes the plural forms of these words easier to say.

Adding 's' and 'es'



Decide whether to add 's' or 'es' to form the plural of each word.

's'

'es'

jar

watch

school

wish

light

bus

apple

box

cat

lunch

shoe

glass



solve



Nouns ending in 'y'



Rules for plurals of nouns ending in 'y'



There are rules to follow when making the plural form of nouns ending in 'y'.

If the noun ends in 'y' and the letter before the 'y' is a **consonant**, we make the plural by changing the 'y' to an 'i' and adding 'es'.

consonant + y → **consonant - y + ies**

For example: **puppy** → **puppies**



If the noun ends in 'y' and the letter before the 'y' is a **vowel**, we make the plural by just adding 's'.

vowel + y → **vowel + y + s**

For example: **key** → **keys**



Nouns ending in 'o'



Plurals of nouns ending in 'o'

To make the plural of many nouns ending in 'o' we add 's'.
The plural of other nouns ending in 'o' is made by adding 'es'.

There are no set rules so it's a good idea to double check in a dictionary if you are unsure whether to add 's' or 'es'!

Do you know if 's' or 'es' should be added to these words?

tomato → tomatoes

banjo → banjos

kangaroo → kangaroos



Words ending in 'f'

To form the plural of some words ending in 'f' we add 's'.

chief → **chiefs**

roof → **roofs**

belief → **beliefs**



For words ending in 'ff' we also add 's'.



sniff → **sniffs**

cliff → **cliffs**

Nouns ending in 'f' and 'fe'

Look what happens with these words ending in 'f' and 'fe':

half → **halves**

calf → **calves**

shelf → **shelves**

knife → **knives**

life → **lives**

The plural of these words is made by changing the 'f' to 'v' and then adding 'es'.

Some words ending in 'f' can use either ending to form the plural. For example:

hoof → **hoofs or hooves**

scarf → **scarfs or scarves**





Unusual plurals

These words all have unusual plurals:

antenna → **antennae**
formula → **formulae**
larva → **larvae**

These words have kept the original plural form from Latin.

goose → **geese**
louse → **lice**
mouse → **mice**



deer → **deer**
sheep → **sheep**

For some nouns, the singular and plural form is the same!



Can you match up each singular noun on the top row with its irregular plural form on the bottom row?

show all

solve



Can you think of any other irregular plurals?

What do you notice about these words?

They do not have a singular form!

jeans



shorts

pants

binoculars



pyjamas



scissors

These are all examples of words that only have a plural form. For example we do not say 'one jean, two jeans'. We say, 'one **pair of** jeans, two **pairs of** jeans.'

Can you think of any more words which only have a plural form?

Test your knowledge of plurals by typing in the correct plural forms of these nouns. Remember the different plural rules that you have learned!

1. pencil

7. boy

2. branch

8. studio

3. mouse

9. leaf

4. box

10. roof

5. story

11. bus

6. hero

12. sheep



solve

