

NOTES: SINGULAR & PLURAL NOUNS

Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Add 's'	ape	apes	cup	cups
	cannon	cannons	phone	phones
	picture	pictures	book	books
	value	values	ring	rings

Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Add 'es' to nouns ending in o, s, x, ch, sh	brush	brushes	box	boxes
	match	matches	hero	heroes
	branch	branches	echo	echoes
	fox	foxes	kiss	kisses
	mango	mangoes	fly	flies
	hex	hexes	reality	realities
	lunch	lunches	bush	bushes
	trench	trenches	embargo	embargoes

Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Add -s to some nouns ending in o	piano	pianos	radio	radios
	bamboo	bamboos	zoo	zoos
	igloo	igloos	dynamo	dynamos
	tattoo	tattoos	logo	logos
	poncho	ponchos	photo	photos
	kimono	kimonos	gazebo	gazebos

Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Change (consonant y) to i and add 'es'	army	armies	city	cities
	pony	ponies	fairy	fairies
	story	stories	duty	duties
	baby	babies	mystery	mysteries
	spy	spies	theory	theories

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Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Add 's' to (vowel y)	toy	toys	day	days
	way	ways	tray	trays
	valley	valleys	bay	bays
	boy	boys	guy	guys
	alley	alleys	prey	preys

Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Omit -f or -fe and add 'ves' to nouns ending in -f or -fe	wife	wives	loaf	loaves
	shelf	shelves	sheaf	sheaves
	thief	thieves	half	halves
	calf	calves	life	lives
	scarf	scarves	elf	elves
	knife	knives	self	selves

Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Add 's' to certain nouns ending in -f or -fe	proof	proofs	chief	chiefs
	safe	safes	roof	roofs
	giraffe	giraffes	cliff	cliffs
	puff	puffs	stuff	stuffs

Some words (ending with -f and -fe) have two forms of the plural:

- dwarf - dwarfs or dwarves
- hoof - hoofs or hooves
- scarf - scarfs or scarves
- staff - staffs or staves
- wharf - wharfs or wharves
- handkerchief - handkerchiefs or handkerchieves

Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Changing the inside vowels	man	men	goose	geese
	mouse	mice	louse	lice
	tooth	teeth	foot	feet
	woman	women	fireman	firemen

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Plural Formation Rule	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Add 'en'	ox	oxen	child	children

Irregular Plural

1. No change in plural form.

sheep trout cod swine deer fish
salmon perch bison moose offspring

2. By adding -s to some unusual nouns. Note where the -s is placed.

Singular	Plural
brother - in - law	brothers - in - law
son - in law	sons - in law
mouse - trap	mice - traps
passer - by	passers - by
maid - servant	maids - servants
step - son	step - sons
daughter - in - law	daughters - in - law
man - of - war	men - of - war

3. Some nouns are used **only in the plural**.

scissors spectacles pincers trousers
tongs shorts clothes measles

4. Some nouns appear to be plural in form but are **used in the singular**.

news mathematics gymnastics statistics

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Nouns adopted from other languages:

- Singular ends in *-is*/ Plural ends in *-es*
analysis/analyses, basis/bases
- Singular ends in *-um*/ Plural ends in *-a*
datum/data, curriculum/curricula
- Singular ends in *-on*/ Plural ends in *-a*
criterion/criteria, phenomenon/phenomena
- Singular ends in *-a*/ Plural ends in *-ae*
formula/formulae, antenna/antennae
- Singular ends in *-ex* or *-ix*/ Plural ends in *-ices*
appendix/appendices, index/indices
- Singular ends in *-us*/ Plural ends in *-i*
focus/foci, stimulus/stimuli
- Singular ends in *-us*/ Plural ends in *-a*
corpus/corpora, genus/genera
- Singular ends in *-eau*/ Plural ends in *-eaux*
bureau/bureaux, beau/beaux



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