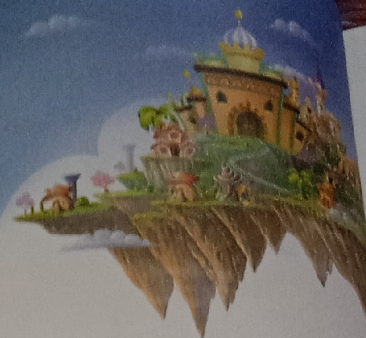


## 2 Nouns Number



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10.9.21



Look at the following table.

A	B
The <b>teacher</b> corrected the <b>paper</b> .	The <b>teachers</b> corrected the <b>papers</b> .
The <b>buffalo</b> grazed in the <b>field</b> .	The <b>buffaloes</b> grazed in the <b>fields</b> .
The <b>guest</b> congratulated the <b>chef</b> .	The <b>guests</b> congratulated the <b>chefs</b> .

In column A, the words in red refer to a single person, place, animal or object. Such nouns are said to be in **singular form**. In column B, the words in red refer to more than one person, place, animal or object. Such nouns are said to be in **plural form**.

A noun is **singular** when it indicates only one person, place, animal or object. A noun is **plural** when it indicates more than one person, place, animal or object.

Examples:

Singular	Plural
This <b>house</b> has a beautiful <b>balcony</b> .	These <b>houses</b> have beautiful <b>balconies</b> .
Amit saw a <b>spider</b> on his <b>notebook</b> .	Amit saw two <b>spiders</b> on his <b>notebooks</b> .
The <b>girl</b> completed her <b>project</b> .	The <b>girls</b> completed their <b>projects</b> .

1. Underline the singular nouns and circle the plural nouns in the following sentences.

- (a) The children have gone to the museum with their parents.
- (b) Labonel is one of the best bakeries in town.
- (c) The library is full of interesting books and journals.
- (d) Kanishk has a box full of chocolates and candies.
- (e) Can you lend me your car for three hours?



- (f) There is an apple and two pomegranates in the basket.
- (g) Some of the students had their answer sheets on their desks.
- (h) The king was surrounded by ten soldiers, yet a man shot him with an arrow.

**Now, let us look at the following sentences.**

*The boys climbed the trees to pluck oranges.*

*The cows gave birth to three calves.*

*The ladies entered the hall before us.*

In the sentences above, the plural nouns *boys*, *trees*, *oranges* and *cows* are formed by adding -s to the singular forms *boy*, *tree*, *orange* and *cow*, respectively. *Calves* is formed by replacing f in *calf* with -ves. Similarly, *ladies* is formed by replacing y with -ies in the word *lady*. Such plural forms of nouns are called **regular plurals**.

Plural nouns that are formed by following certain rules are called **regular plurals**.

**Examples:**

*The classrooms have new benches and whiteboards now.*

*Nisha bought fresh potatoes and cherries from the local shops.*

*Arrange the knives, forks and spoons near the plates on the tables.*

**Let's learn some rules of forming regular plurals.**

- For most nouns, the plural is formed by adding -s at the end of the singular form, such as *king* – *kings*, *tree* – *trees* and *door* – *doors*.
- For nouns that end with **o**, **s**, **ss**, **x**, **ch** or **sh**, the plural is formed by adding -es at the end of the singular form. For example, *potato* – *potatoes*, *lens* – *lenses*, *dress* – *dresses*, *tax* – *taxes*, *watch* – *watches*, *wish* – *wishes*, etc. However, there are several exceptions to this rule such as *photo* – *photos*, *piano* – *pianos* and *stomach* – *stomachs*.
- For nouns that end with **ie**, **oo** or **eo**, the plural is formed by adding -s at the end of the singular form. For example, *tie* – *ties*, *zoo* – *zoos*, *video* – *videos*, etc.
- For nouns that end with a consonant + **y**, the plural is formed by replacing **y** with -ies. For example, *story* – *stories*, *city* – *cities*, etc.
- For nouns that end with a vowel + **y**, the plural is formed by adding -s at the end of the singular form. For example, *essay* – *essays*, *monkey* – *monkeys*, *trolley* – *trolleys*, etc.
- For nouns that end with **f** or **fe**, the plural is formed by replacing **f** or **fe** with -ves. For example, *calf* – *calves*, *leaf* – *leaves*, *knife* – *knives*, etc.

There are some exceptions to this rule as well. Some nouns that end with *f* do not take *-ves* in their plural forms. For example, *chief* - *chiefs*, *belief* - *beliefs*, etc. Some nouns that end with *f* take both *-ves* and *-s* to form plurals. For example, *scarf* - *scarves/scarfs*, *hoof* - *hooves/hoofs*, *dwarf* - *dwarves/dwarfs*, etc.

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- Fill in the blanks with the correct plural form from brackets.
- (a) There are seven zeroes (zeros/zéroes) in a crore.
- (b) The carpenter made two new books (books/bookes).
- (c) There are several studios (studios/studioes) in the area to get your photos (photoes/photos) clicked.
- (d) Kavya got stung by bees (bees/bies) and wasps (waspes/wasps).
- (e) The babies (babys/babies) were excited to see the cuckoos (cuckooes/cuckoos) in the zoo.
- (f) Shut the doors (doors/doores), or the monkeys (monkeies/monkeys) will enter the house.
- (g) The two pianos (pianoes/pianos) weigh more than a hundred kilos (kiloes/kilos).
- (h) All the renowned chefs (cheves/chefs) advise using different knives (knifs/knives) to cut different vegetables (vegetabl/s/vegetables).

### Now, look at the following sentences.

The *mice* ate the cake at night.

The *children* wanted to have ice cream.

Seven *women* got injured in the accident.

In these sentences, the words *mice*, *children* and *women* are the plural forms of *mouse*, *child* and *woman*, respectively. These words do not follow a specific rule while changing to their plural forms. Such plural forms are called **irregular plurals**.

The plural nouns that are formed without following any rule are called **irregular plurals**.

### Examples:

We should brush our *teeth* twice a day.

Wash your *feet* before you enter the room.

The villagers used *oxen* to pull carts.

4. Complete the sentences with the plural forms of nouns given in the box below.

thief	child	month	mouse	ring
spectacles	deer	woman	proof	noise
foal	box	volcano	series	dish

- (a) A cloud of smoke and ash erupted from the volcanoes.
- (b) Sheetal saw seven Mice scamper by.
- (c) The media house has announced the release of three web Series in the upcoming months.
- (d) The Thieves stole all the silver ring s they found in the house.
- (e) The child ren got scared by the noise that came from the other room.
- (f) The Foals ran into the forest while the deerc were chased by the wolves.
- (g) The woman put a pair of spectacles and two proofs and two boxes in the \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Rewrite the sentences after changing the forms of the nouns: singular to plural and plural to singular. Make other necessary changes. One has been done for you.

(a) My friend played the piano.

*My friends played the pianos.*

(b) The lady was dressed in her best gown.

*The ladies were dressed in*

(c) The singer sang a melodious song.

*their gowns*  
*The singer sang melodious song.*

(d) The hoof of the horse had a nail in it.

*The hooves of horses had nail in them.*

(e) The building had one storey with only one room.

(f) The analysis made by the student was not accepted by the teacher.

(g) The carpenter used the electric saw to work on the bookshelf.

(h) The voter is required to carry their photo identity card to the polling booth.



6. Identify the errors and rewrite the following sentences correctly.
- (a) The dentist pulled out the aching tooth.
  - (b) He refused to give anything to his stepsdaughter.
  - (c) I deeply admire the poetries of John Keats.
  - (d) Amisha wants to complete her educations before starting her own businesses.
  - (e) These crisis will cripple the official machineries.
  - (f) Judy cut the tomatos into two halves and sprinkled a pinch of salts on them.
  - (g) Renish bought bookes with storys about fairys and elfs.
  - (h) The oxes and the deers were hiding behind the bushies.
  - (i) The cheves need two dozens banana and two jares of honeys to make a hundreds pancake.

### Recap

- A noun is **singular** when it indicates only one person, place, animal or object, and **plural** when it indicates more than one person, place, animal or object.
- The plural nouns that are formed following certain rules are called **regular plurals**. For example, we add **-es** to nouns ending with **o, s, ss, x, ch** or **sh** to form plurals (**boss – bosses**). We replace **y** with **-ies** to form plurals of nouns ending with a consonant + **y** (**city – cities**).
- The plural nouns that are formed without following any rule are called **irregular plurals**. Either the plural form is completely different or just the same as singular form. For example, **child – children, aircraft – aircraft**, etc.