



Look at the following table.

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

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

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*,

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.

2. Fill in the blanks with the correct plural form from brackets.

- (a) There are seven zeros (zeros/zeros) in a crore.
- (b) The carpenter made two new shelves (shelves/shelves) to keep the books (books/books).
- (c) There are several studios (studios/studios) in the area to get your photos (photos/photos) clicked.
- (d) Kavya got stung by bees (bees/bees) and wasps (wasps/wasps).
- (e) The babies (babies/babies) were excited to see the cuckoos (cuckoos/cuckoos) in the zoo.
- (f) Shut the doors (doors/doors), or the monkeys (monkeys/monkeys) will enter the house.
- (g) The two pianos (pianos/pianos) weigh more than a hundred kilos (kilos/kilos).
- (h) All the renowned chefs (chefs/chefs) advise using different knives (knives/knives) to cut different vegetables (vegetables/vegetables).