



Look at the following table.

**A**

The teacher corrected the paper.  
The buffalo grazed in the field.  
The guest congratulated the chef.

**B**

The teachers corrected the papers.  
The buffaloes grazed in the fields.  
The guests congratulated the chefs.

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

This house has a beautiful balcony.  
Amit saw a spider on his notebook.  
The girl completed her project.

### Plural

These houses have beautiful balconies.  
Amit saw two spiders on his notebooks.  
The girls completed their projects.

1. Underline the singular nouns and circle the plural nouns in the following sentences.
- The children have gone to the museum with their parents.
  - Labonel is one of the best bakeries in town.
  - The library is full of interesting books and journals.
  - Kanishk has a box full of chocolates and candies.
  - 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.

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 zeroes (zeros/zeroes) 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).

**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.*

|            | Plural *   | Singular   | Plural (English/Latin) |
|------------|------------|------------|------------------------|
| agendum    | agenda     | focus*     | focuses/foci           |
| appendix   | appendices | index*     | indexes/indices        |
| curriculum | curricula  | stadium*   | stadiums/stadia        |
| formula    | formulae   | syllabus*  | syllabuses/syllabi     |
| criterion  | criteria   | antenna*   | antennas/antennae      |
| phenomenon | phenomena  | gymnasium* | gymnasiums/gymnasia    |

\*Some of the words such as *appendix* and *curriculum* have other plural forms also.

Form plurals of nouns given in the box below and put them in the correct column of the table.

|         |        |        |              |
|---------|--------|--------|--------------|
| beach   | axis   | class  | information  |
| cactus  | deity  | radius | satisfaction |
| journey | crisis | ruby   | furniture    |

| Add -s        | Add -es at the end | Replace y with -ies | Drop us and add -i | Always Singular | Replace is with -es |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| informations  | beaches            | deities             | Cacti              | Furniture       | axes                |
| satisfactions | classes            | rubies              | radii              |                 |                     |
| journeys      | crises             |                     |                    |                 |                     |

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 children scamper by.
- (c) The media house has announced the release of three web series in the upcoming month.
- (d) The thief stole all the silver rings they found in the house.
- (e) The mouse got scared by the noise that came from the other room.
- (f) The deers ran into the forest while the foals were chased by the wolves.
- (g) The woman put a pair of spectacles and two dishes in the boxes.

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 their best gowns.

(c) The singer sang a melodious song.

The singers sang melodious songs.

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

The hoofs of horses had nails in it.

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

The buildings had storeys with rooms.

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

The analysis made by the students was not accepted by the teachers.

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

The carpenter used the electric saw to work on the bookshelves.

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

The voters are required to carry their photo identity cards to the polling booths.



6. Identify the errors and rewrite the following sentences correctly.
- (a) The dentist pulled out the aching tooths.  
*tooth*
  - (b) He refused to give anything to his stepsdaughter.  
*stepdaughter*
  - (c) I deeply admire the poetries of John Keats.  
*Keat*
  - (d) Amisha wants to complete her educations before starting her own businesses.  
*education* *business*
  - (e) These crisis will cripple the official machineries.  
*machinery*
  - (f) Judy cut the tomatos into two halfs and sprinkled a pinch of salts on them.  
*half* *salt*
  - (g) Renish bought bookes with stors about fairys and elfs.  
*books* *stories* *fairies* *elves*
  - (h) The oxes and the deers were hiding behind the bushies.  
*oxen* *bushes*
  - (i) The cheves need two dozens banana and two jares of honeys to make a hundreds pancake.  
*chees* *dozen* *jars* *honey* *hundred*  
*pancakes*

## 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.*