

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/zeroes*) in a crore.
- (b) The carpenter made two new shelves (*shelvs/shelves*) to keep the 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/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.

Examples:

The mountaineer encountered several difficulties on her way down.

The students have high hopes of scoring good marks this time.

Everyone appreciated his innovative ideas and management skills.

I have had had experiences of telling lies.

- Compound words form their plurals by adding **-s** to the principal noun or changing the principal noun itself. For example, *sister-in-law* - *sisters-in-law*, *man of war* - *men of war*, *stepfather* - *stepfathers*, etc. However, there are some exceptions to this rule such as *cupful* - *cupfuls* and *grown up* - *grown-ups*.
- Many words in English have been borrowed from other languages. The following table shows words from languages such as Greek and Latin with their plural forms. Words with asterisk (*) have different plurals in English and Latin.

Singular	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.

3. 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
Journeys	beaches classes	rubies	radii	information	axes
Satisfaction		deities	cacti		crises
furniture					