

# Formation of Plurals



S.No:1

In English, there are two numbers – **singular** and **plural**. When one thing is spoken of, the noun is singular; but when more than one thing is spoken of, the noun is plural.

## Rules of forming plurals

1. The plural noun is generally formed by adding **-s** to the singular.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
cow	cows	boy	boys
girl	girls	book	books
tree	trees	dog	dogs
pen	pens	sofa	sofas

2. Nouns ending in **-s**, **-sh**, **-ss**, **-ch** or **-x** form plural by adding **-es** to the singular.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
class	classes	brush	brushes
kiss	kisses	match	matches
tax	taxes	bus	buses



3. Most nouns ending in **-o** form their plural by adding **-es** to the singular.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
mango	mangoes	hero	heroes
potato	potatoes	volcano	volcanoes



4. Note that a few nouns ending in **-o** merely add **-s**.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
dynamo	dynamos	piano	pianos
photo	photos	logo	logos
kilo	kilos	motto	mottos



5. Nouns ending with the consonant **-y** form their plural by changing **-y** into **-ies**.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
baby	babies	lady	ladies
city	cities	story	stories



6. Nouns ending in **-f** or **-fe** form their plural by changing **-f** or **-fe** into **v** and adding **-es**.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
wife	wives	leaf	leaves
half	halves	self	selves
calf	calves	loaf	loaves
elf	elves	knife	knives
wolf	wolves	shelf	shelves



7. Some other nouns ending in **-f** or **-fe** take **-s**.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
chief	chiefs	gulf	gulfs
safe	safes	proof	proofs

8. A few nouns form their plural by making some changes to the vowels.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
foot	feet	man	men
woman	women	tooth	teeth
mouse	mice	goose	geese



9. A few nouns form plural by adding **-en**, with or without other changes.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
ox	oxen	child	children
brother	brethren (of the same society)		



10. Some nouns taken unchanged from foreign languages retain their plurals.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
genus	genera	axis	axes
criterion	criteria	analysis	analyses
crisis	crises	ellipsis	ellipses

S.No-3

11. Some nouns are used only in the plural.

Examples: scissors, tongs, goggles, pants, trousers, clothes, forceps, etc.

12. A few nouns have the same form in the singular and plural.

Examples: deer, sheep, swine, etc.

13. The plural of proper nouns is generally formed regularly.

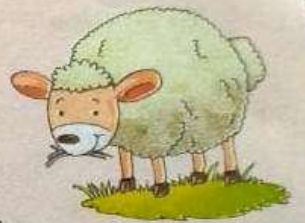
Examples: the Smiths, the Browns, the two Dr. Jacksons, Sharmas etc.

14. When names of substances, such as fruit, spice, sugar, etc., are used in the plural, they mean different kinds of fruit, spice, sugar, etc.

15. Father-in-law, brother-in-law are compound nouns. Compound nouns generally form the plural by adding **-s** to the principal word.

16. Nouns ending in **-ful** form the plural by adding the **-s** at the end of the word.

Examples: handfuls, cupfuls, pailfuls, spoonfuls, etc.



S.No. 4

A - Write the plural of the following.

- |     |            | Answer- |                 |
|-----|------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1-  | Story      |         | 1. Stories      |
| 2-  | Monkey     |         | 2. Monkeys      |
| 3-  | Toothbrush |         | 3. Toothbrushes |
| 4-  | Mouse      |         | 4. Mice         |
| 5-  | Sandwich   |         | 5. Sandwiches   |
| 6-  | Strawberry |         | 6. Strawberries |
| 7-  | Inch       |         | 7. Inches       |
| 8-  | Goose      |         | 8. Geese        |
| 9-  | Roof       |         | 9. Roofs        |
| 10- | Potato     |         | 10. Potatoes    |
| 11- | Wife       |         | 11. Wives       |
| 12- | Horse      |         | 12. Horses      |
| 13- | Bush       |         | 13. Bushes      |
| 14- | Watch      |         | 14. Watches     |
| 15- | Crocodile  |         | 15. Crocodiles  |
| 16- | box        |         | 16. Boxes       |
| 17- | Dress      |         | 17. Dresses     |
| 18- | Man        |         | 18. Men         |
| 19- | Orange     |         | 19. Oranges     |
| 20- | Camera     |         | 20. Cameras     |

B- Write the singular of the following.

- |             |         |                            |
|-------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1- Children | Answer- | 1- Child                   |
| 2- Parties  |         | 2- Party                   |
| 3- Boys     |         | 3- Boy                     |
| 4- Gums     |         | 4- Gum                     |
| 5- Desks    |         | 5- Desk                    |
| 6- Toffees  |         | 6- Toffee                  |
| 7- Books    |         | 7- Book                    |
| 8- Women    |         | 8- Woman                   |
| 9- Apples   |         | 9- Apple                   |
| 10- Stars   |         | 10- Star                   |
| 11- Frolics |         | 11- Frolic                 |
| 12- Toes    |         | 12- Toe                    |
| 13- Cows    |         | 13- Cow                    |
| 14- Houses  |         | 14- House                  |
| 15- Photos  |         | 15- Photo                  |
| 16- Pens    |         | 16- Pen                    |
| 17- Glasses |         | 17- <del>Glass</del> Glass |
| 18- Cars    |         | 18- <del>Car</del> Car     |
| 19- Babies  |         | 19- Baby                   |
| 20- Thieves |         | 20- Thief                  |