Singular or Plural?

Singular Noun Definition:
When a noun means one only, it is said to be singular.
Examples: boy, girl, book, church, box

Plural Noun Definition:
When a noun means more than one, it is said to be plural.
Examples: boys, girls, books, churches

Rule #1
The plural of nouns is usually formed by adding -s to a singular noun.

lamp   lamps
cat    cats
fork   forks
flower flowers
pen    pens

Exercise: Write the plural of each of these nouns

chair star farm
storm door rock
owner paper cup

Rule #2
Nouns ending in s, z, x, sh, and ch form the plural by adding -es.

moss mosses
buzz buzzes
box boxes
dish dishes
church churches

e

Exercise: Write the plural of each of these nouns

dress brush hex
wish class fox
cross bench bush
ax grass mantis

Special Note:
If you add -s to such nouns as fox, bush, and bench, you will find that you cannot pronounce them without making an additional syllable. This is why such nouns form the plural by adding -es.
Nouns ending in -y preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by changing -y to -ies.

Examples: lady, ladies; city, cities; army, armies

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words
fly  lady  city
baby  beauty  sky
pony  story  duty
injury  history  study
cherry  berry  theory

Rule #4
Nouns ending in y preceded by a vowel form their plurals by adding -s.

Example: boy, boys; day, days

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words
day  play
toy  joy
essay  valley
turkey  alley
chimney  volley

Rule #5
Most nouns ending in o preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by adding es.

Example: hero; heroes; grotto, grottoes

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words
motto  potato  mosquito  buffalo*  portico*
calico  cargo  tomato  hero  memento
buffalo  volcano  halo*  lasso  albino
hero  grotto  tornado*  sirocco

*may add -s or -es

The following are among those that add s only
canto  solo  piano  lasso
halo  memento  albino  sirocco

Special Note:

Most nouns ending in o preceded by a vowel is formed into a plural by adding -s.

Example: folio, folios; cameo; cameos; studio, studios; portfolio, portfolios
Rule #6
Some nouns ending in f or fe are made plural by changing f or fe to -ves.

Example: beef, beves; wife, wives

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>calf</td>
<td>self</td>
<td>leaf</td>
<td>sheaf</td>
<td>life</td>
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<tr>
<td>loaf</td>
<td>shelf</td>
<td>half</td>
<td>wolf</td>
<td>knife</td>
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<tr>
<td>elf</td>
<td>half</td>
<td>thief</td>
<td>wife</td>
<td>gulf</td>
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<tr>
<td>chief</td>
<td>dwarf*</td>
<td>proof</td>
<td>turf</td>
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The following form their plurals by adding -s.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chief, chiefs</td>
<td>fife, fifes</td>
<td>mischief, mischiefs</td>
<td>hoof, hoofs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>roof, roofs</td>
<td>grief, griefs</td>
<td>kerchief, kerchiefs</td>
<td>safe, safes</td>
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IRREGULAR PLURALS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>man, men</td>
<td>foot, feet</td>
<td>mouse, mice</td>
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<tr>
<td>woman, women</td>
<td>tooth, teeth</td>
<td>louse, lice</td>
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<tr>
<td>child, children</td>
<td>ox, oxen</td>
<td>goose, geese</td>
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The following nouns have no singular:

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<tr>
<td>scissors</td>
<td>oats</td>
<td>tongs</td>
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<tr>
<td>trousers</td>
<td>pinchers</td>
<td>bellows</td>
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<tr>
<td>cattle</td>
<td>shears</td>
<td>measles</td>
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<tr>
<td>victuals</td>
<td>tweezers</td>
<td>vespers</td>
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Some nouns are always singular. Some of these nouns may be used in the plural when different kinds are meant as sugars, coffees, cottons

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<tr>
<td>gold</td>
<td>silver</td>
<td>wheat</td>
<td>corn</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>molasses</td>
<td>copper</td>
<td>sugar</td>
<td>cotton</td>
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Singular nouns use this and that.
Plural nouns use these and those.
Plurals

Many words ending in y make their plurals by changing the y to ies.

A Make these words plural:

1. penny + ies = ____________
2. fly + ies = ____________
3. sky + ies = ____________
4. ferry + ies = ____________
5. body + ies = ____________
6. try + ies = ____________
7. story + ies = ____________
8. berry + ies = ____________

B Choose four of the plurals you have made and then use them in a sentence of your own.

1. _______________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________
4. _______________________________________________________

Created by Hayley Roberts, BSC 2005
Plurals adding es

The rule is: If a word ends in sh, ch, ss, x, s or o, then add es to make it more than one.

One bush, two  One kiss, two
One watch, two  One bus, two
One domino, two  One box, two
One witch, two  One patch, two
One wish, two  One class, two

Use some of the words you have made to fill in the spaces.

1. The fairy gave me three _________________.
2. My Mum gives me lots of good night _________________.
3. There were lots of ________________ at the bus station.
4. We played hide and seek and I hid in the _________________.
5. Max and James had a game of _________________.
6. There are four ________________ in year three; 3G, 3Y, 3B and 3R.
7. My sister has two Baby-G _________________.
8. The presents were piled up in lots of colourful _________________.
9. The wicked ________________ turned Jonathan into a mouse.
10. Mum sewed two ________________ onto Tom’s jeans.

Circle the es words in each line

11. want watches what witches scrunch
12. but bushes butter classes glasses
13. patch in patches hatch boxes bigger
14. buses which kisses she wishes why
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Draw two dominoes</th>
<th>Draw two boxes</th>
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</table>

Now put these words into sentences of your own

1. Foxes

2. Glasses

3. Churches

4. Dishes

5. Bushes
Spelling Test - Plurals

1. Two ________________ were hiding in the ________________.
2. The ________________ played a game of ________________.
3. There are four ________________ in year three.
4. Sid washed the ________________ and the ________________.
5. Mum sewed two ________________ on Dan’s trousers.
6. The prince gave the princess lots of ________________.
7. The wizard gave me three ________________.
8. Most ________________ have ________________ on them.
9. All the ________________ were in special ________________.
10. There are lots of ________________ in Dubai.
Learn these words for a test next week. You may use the **SACAWAC** method: **See & Cover & Write & Check** or you may use a different way, depending on your preferred learning style. For example you may practice them on your computer or by tracing each word in a tray of sand. If you do not use this sheet please ask one of your parents to write in your diary the method you used.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>foxes</th>
<th>watches</th>
<th>crosses</th>
<th>bushes</th>
<th>boxes</th>
<th>buses</th>
<th>dominoes</th>
<th>classes</th>
<th>churches</th>
<th>dishes</th>
<th>patches</th>
<th>glasses</th>
<th>kisses</th>
<th>wishes</th>
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