

SINGULAR AND PLURAL RULES –

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	car	cars

Exercise: Write the plural of these singular nouns:

chair	star	farm	storm
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door	rock	owner	paper
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cup	pickle	pencil	shoe
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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		

Exercise: Write the plural of these singular nouns:

dress	brush	hex	wish
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class	fox	cross	bench
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bush	ax	grass	mantis
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REVIEW OF RULES #1 AND #2

Exercises: Note the following nouns as singular or plural:

box	cats	slipper	forks
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books	chair	desk	houses
-------	-------	------	--------

paper	wagon	lamps	shoes
-------	-------	-------	-------

garden

horses

dress

dog

carts

kitchen

pony

glass

Exercises: Write the plural of the following nouns:

chair

star

pencil

girl

boy

ax

bush

coat

tree

bench

sketch

owner

touch

latch

mug

lamp

Exercises: Write the singular of the following nouns:

bells

churches

wagons

coals

pictures

clocks

boxes

kitchens

basins

chairs

days

houses

pencils

trees

tables

dressess

RULE #3

Nouns ending in – **y** – preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by changing the – **y** – to – **ies**.

Examples:

lady

ladies

city

cities

army

armies

berry

berries

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words:

fly

baby

pony

injury

cherry

lady

beauty

story

berry

city

sky

duty

RULE #4

Nouns ending in – **y** – preceded by a vowel form their plurals by adding – **s**.

Examples:

boy boys day days

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words:

day toy essay chimney

turkey play joy valley

alley volley way buy

REVIEW OF RULES #3 AND #4

Exercises: Note the following nouns as singular or plural:

boy copies days donkey

plays salaries cry dairies

Exercises: Write the plural of the following nouns:

abbey

body

highway

memory

boy

alloy

cowboy

parsley

sky

cavity

birthday

valley

butterfly

lobby

army

clergy

Exercises: Write the singular of the following nouns:

keys

pennies

puttys

balconys

duties

guys

ivories

kidneys

parties

replies

stays

bays

stories

frays

worries

jockeys

RULE #5

Most nouns ending in – **o** – preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by adding – **es**.

Examples:

hero heroes grotto grottoes

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words:

motto calico buffalo hero

potato cargo volcano grotto

mosquito* tomato halo* tornado*

buffalo* portico* veto bongo

* May add – **s** – or – **es**.

RULE #6

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

Example:

folio folios cameo cameos

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words:

studio portfolio patio rodeo

video zoo audio cockatoo

trios taboo kazoo embryo

RULE #7

Some nouns ending in – **f** – or – **fe** – are made plural by changing the – **f** – or the – **fe** – to – **ves**.

Examples:

leaf leaves wife wives

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words:

calf

self

sheaf

life

loaf

shelf

half

wolf

thief

scarf

knife

strife

Some nouns ending in – **f** – or – **fe** – are made plural by adding – **s**.

Examples:

chief

chiefs

roof

roofs

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words:

belief

chef

reef

proof

turf

gulf

cliff

cuff

Singular nouns use this and that.

Plural nouns use these and those.

SINGULAR

This is a cow.

That is a cow.

Who is this person?

This is a good movie.

This is a tooth.

That is a tooth.

What is this?

What is that?

I like this pencil.

I like that pencil.

PLURAL

These are cows.

Those are cows.

Who are these people?

These are good movies.

These are teeth.

Those are teeth.

What are these?

What are those?

I like these pencils.

I like those pencils.

IRREGULAR PLURALS

Examples:

man	men	woman	women
child	children	foot	feet
tooth	teeth	mouse	mice
ox	oxen	goose	geese