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Singular and Plural Nouns

Nouns can be singular or plural depending on the number of things they name.

Singular nouns name one person, animal, place or thing.

box train flower rose boy room

Plural nouns name more than one person, animal, place or thing.

boxes trains flowers roses boys rooms

We follow some rules to change nouns from singular to plural.

1. To change some nouns from singular to plural, we only add **-s** at the end.

brother ~ brothers shop ~ shops stick ~ sticks

2. If the noun ends in a hissing sound (**-s**, **-ss**, **-sh**, **-ch**, **-x**), add **-es** at the end.

peach ~ peaches dress ~ dresses bus ~ buses

3. If the noun ends in **-y** and the letter before the **-y** is a consonant, change the **-y** to **-i** and add **-es**.

baby ~ babies lily ~ lilies

4. If the noun ends in **-y** and the letter before the **-y** is a vowel, just add an **-s**.

key ~ keys boy ~ boys

Keep in Mind

If the **-ch** at the end of a noun is pronounced with a 'k' sound, add an **-s** in the end to change from singular to plural.

stomach ~ stomachs

A Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the nouns given in brackets.

1. Mr Sood has two (watch/watches) in his pocket.
2. Anita has a red (dress/dresses).
3. The gardener cut off all the dead (branch/branches).
4. In my dream, the fairy granted me a (wish/wishes).

5. There are lots of (room/rooms) in our school.
6. To be healthy and strong, we must eat our (meals/meal) regularly.
7. The (boy/boys) were not allowed to go out after dark.
8. They planted many (lily/lilies) in their garden.

5. For most nouns that end in *-f* or *-fe*, change the *-f* or *-fe* to *-v* and add *-es*.

loaf ~ loaf*es* wife ~ wiv*es*
 life ~ liv*es* knife ~ kniv*es*

However, there are some nouns that don't follow this rule.

chief ~ chief*s* safe ~ saf*es* belief ~ believ*es*
 roof ~ roof*s* proof ~ proof*s* cliff ~ cliff*s*

6. The plurals of some nouns are formed by **changing one or more vowels** in them.

foot ~ fe*et* man ~ m*en* goose ~ ge*ese*

7. There are some nouns that **don't follow any rules** while changing into plural.

child ~ child*ren* ox ~ ox*en*

8. Some singular nouns **do not change** in their plural forms.

series ~ series deer ~ deer sheep ~ sheep

9. There are some nouns that are **always plural**.

scissors trousers clothes

B Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the nouns given in brackets.

1. There are forty (child/children) in my class.
2. While the shepherd was sleeping, his flock of (sheep/sheeps) ran away.
3. Mowgli grew up with a pack of (wolves/wolf).
4. Chinku the (mouse/mice) peeped out of the hole to see if the cat was still there.
5. James brushes his (tooth/teeth) twice every day.
6. The cook has a collection of sharp (knife/knives).
7. The burglar had cracked several (safes/safe).
8. Tarun washed all his (handkerchief/handkerchiefs) and hung them to dry.

C Rewrite the sentences by changing the nouns from plural to singular forms. Make other necessary changes also.

1. The shelves have many books on them.

The shelf has a book on it.

2. The women told the children about their childhood experiences.

3. The peons served coffee at the meetings.

4. The monkeys are on the roofs.

5. The children took many water bottles to the picnic.

6. The women want to borrow two pairs of scissors.

7. The sheep are grazing in the field.

8. There were many deer in the deer park.

9. The actors went in to change their costumes.

10. My brothers bought many loaves of bread.