

Nouns: Irregular Plural Nouns

FORM:

The plural form of most English countable nouns (some cannot be counted!) is simply the addition of “-s”. Example: pen → pens. There are exceptions:

1. Words which end in “-o, -ch, -s, -sh, -ss, -x or -z” have an “-es” added.

Examples: *church* → *churches*, *bus* → *buses*, *rush* → *rushes*,
boss → *bosses*, *fox* → *foxes*, *quiz* → *quizzes*
hero → *heroes*, *volcano* → *volcanoes*

2. Some words which end in “-f” change their “-f” to “-v” and add “-es” to form the plural.

Examples: *life* → *lives*, *thief* → *thieves*, *wife* → *wives*, *leaf* → *leaves*,
Exception: *belief* → *beliefs*

3. Nouns ending in a consonant followed by “-y” change the “-y” to “-i” and add “-es” in the plural.

Examples: *country* → *countries*, *party* → *parties*

4. Some nouns follow no pattern and are irregular in the plural.

Examples: *child* → *children*, *foot* → *feet*, *goose* → *geese*, *man* → *men*,
ox → *oxen*, *tooth* → *teeth*, *woman* → *women*

5. Some nouns don't change.

Examples: *sheep*, *fish*, *moose*, *deer*

6. Some nouns always look plural but are really uncountable.

Examples: *clothes*, *news*.

USE:

The plural of countable nouns is used when there are two or more of a noun.

EXAMPLES: *There are lots of children in our school.*

Geese fly south for the winter.

Many people have parties for New Year's Eve.

Change the following nouns from SINGULAR to PLURAL and make other necessary changes.

1. There is a match in my pocket.

2. The child has a bad cold.

3. The woman is eating lunch in her office today.

4. The teacher is in the classroom.

5. The bus is on the corner.

6. The church in this city is very old.

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7. Is there a fish in the aquarium?

8. I have a bad tooth.

9. The box of Christmas decorations is in the basement.

10. The mouse is under the box.

11. That dress is on sale this week.

12. The butterfly is on the flower.

13. Do you have a piece of paper?

14. There is a window in the room.

15. There is a person in the conference room.

16. The post office is closed.

Change the following nouns from SINGULAR to PLURAL and make other necessary changes.

1. A dog is a domestic animal.

2. The man is a thief.

3. A cat can run faster than a mouse.

4. This photocopier is new.

5. The baby has a new tooth.

6. There is a copy of your text at the reception.

7. This is a great victory for your team.

8. The boy has a peanut butter sandwich.

9. A box is usually square.

10. A woman is waiting for the bus at the corner.

11. That fireman is a real hero.

12. The knife is on the kitchen counter.

13. A potato and an apple are in that box.

14. The student eats his lunch in the cafeteria.

15. The dish is in the sink.

16. That city has a very tall building.

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17. There is a bus in front of the supermarket.

18. She has a small foot.

19. That strawberry is delicious.

20. She has a key to the office.

21. He has an assistant.

22. He is a singer.

23. I cut my finger.

24. It is an old university.

25. The ox is pulling the cart.

26. The leaf is changing colour.
