

# Singular and Plural Nouns

- ▶ **Singular noun**—the name of one person, place, thing, or idea
- ▶ **Plural noun**—the name of more than one person, place, thing, or idea

The most common way to change a singular noun to a plural noun is to add an *s*.

Singular Noun	Plural Noun
word	words

Add *-es* to words that end in *ch*, *sh*, *s*, *ss*, and *x*.

Singular Noun	Plural Noun
church	churches

The name of a group of things can also be singular or plural.

Singular Noun	Plural Noun
audience	audiences

**A** Identify each noun as singular or plural. Write *Singular* or *Plural* on the line before each word.

- |       |           |       |            |
|-------|-----------|-------|------------|
| _____ | 1. surf   | _____ | 6. forest  |
| _____ | 2. trees  | _____ | 7. taxes   |
| _____ | 3. ideas  | _____ | 8. nation  |
| _____ | 4. houses | _____ | 9. patches |
| _____ | 5. band   | _____ | 10. dress  |

**B** Change each singular noun to a plural noun. Add *-s* or *-es*.

Examples: radio      radios      bench      benches

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. dish _____       | 9. six _____         |
| 2. horse _____      | 10. team _____       |
| 3. cereal _____     | 11. path _____       |
| 4. bus _____        | 12. kiss _____       |
| 5. building _____   | 13. fox _____        |
| 6. holiday _____    | 14. branch _____     |
| 7. song _____       | 15. piano _____      |
| 8. automobile _____ | 16. basketball _____ |

Most nouns that end in *y* become plural by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *-es*.  
When the letter before the *y* is a vowel, add *-s*.

Plural noun that ends in *-ies*  
city cities

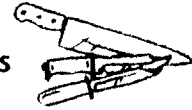
Plural noun that doesn't end in *-ies*  
monkey monkeys

Many nouns that end in *f* or *fe* become plural by changing the *f* to *v* and adding *-s* or *-es*.

leaf leaves



knife knives



**C** Change each of these singular nouns to a plural noun. Write your answer on the line.

1. calf \_\_\_\_\_

6. spy \_\_\_\_\_

2. journey \_\_\_\_\_

7. navy \_\_\_\_\_

3. belief \_\_\_\_\_

8. wife \_\_\_\_\_

4. watch \_\_\_\_\_

9. bush \_\_\_\_\_

5. film \_\_\_\_\_

10. crowd \_\_\_\_\_

Some nouns ending in *o* become plural by adding *-es*.  
hero heroes potato potatoes

Most nouns ending in *o* and referring to music become plural by adding *-s*.  
piano pianos solo solos soprano sopranos

A few nouns become plural by changing the letters within the word or in other irregular ways.

man men  
tooth teeth

foot feet  
goose geese

The singular and plural forms of some nouns are the same.  
one deer two deer one sheep many sheep

**D** Change each of these singular nouns to a plural noun.

1. sheep \_\_\_\_\_

4. hero \_\_\_\_\_

2. foot \_\_\_\_\_

5. mouse \_\_\_\_\_

3. tomato \_\_\_\_\_

6. alto \_\_\_\_\_

Form the plural of compound nouns with hyphens by adding -s to the main word.

mother-in-law

mothers-in-law

Form the plural of compound nouns ending in *-ful* by adding -s.

cupful    cupfuls

handful    handfuls

Form the plural of numbers and letters by adding an apostrophe (') and -s.  
I wrote some B's and D's on the lines.

**E** Change each of the following singular nouns to a plural noun.

1. army \_\_\_\_\_

4. torch \_\_\_\_\_

2. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

5. spoonful \_\_\_\_\_

3. man-of-war \_\_\_\_\_

6. father-in-law \_\_\_\_\_

**F** Proofread the paragraphs. Circle any plural nouns that you find. Write the correct spelling above any misspelled plural noun.

Several springs ago my brother-in-laws, Joe and Mike, and I went camping. We pitched our tents in a grove of trees. We used our new knives to make stakes to hold down the tent ropes.

In the morning, we were pleasantly surprised to see a pair of deers in our camp. We also saw several Canada geoses flying overhead. Joe and I went for a walk in the direction of a clump of birchs. Mike stayed in camp to cook a breakfast of trouts and potatos. I can smell that meal now!

**G** Write a sentence using the plural form of each noun. Underline each plural noun.

1. shelf \_\_\_\_\_

2. baby \_\_\_\_\_

3. woman \_\_\_\_\_

