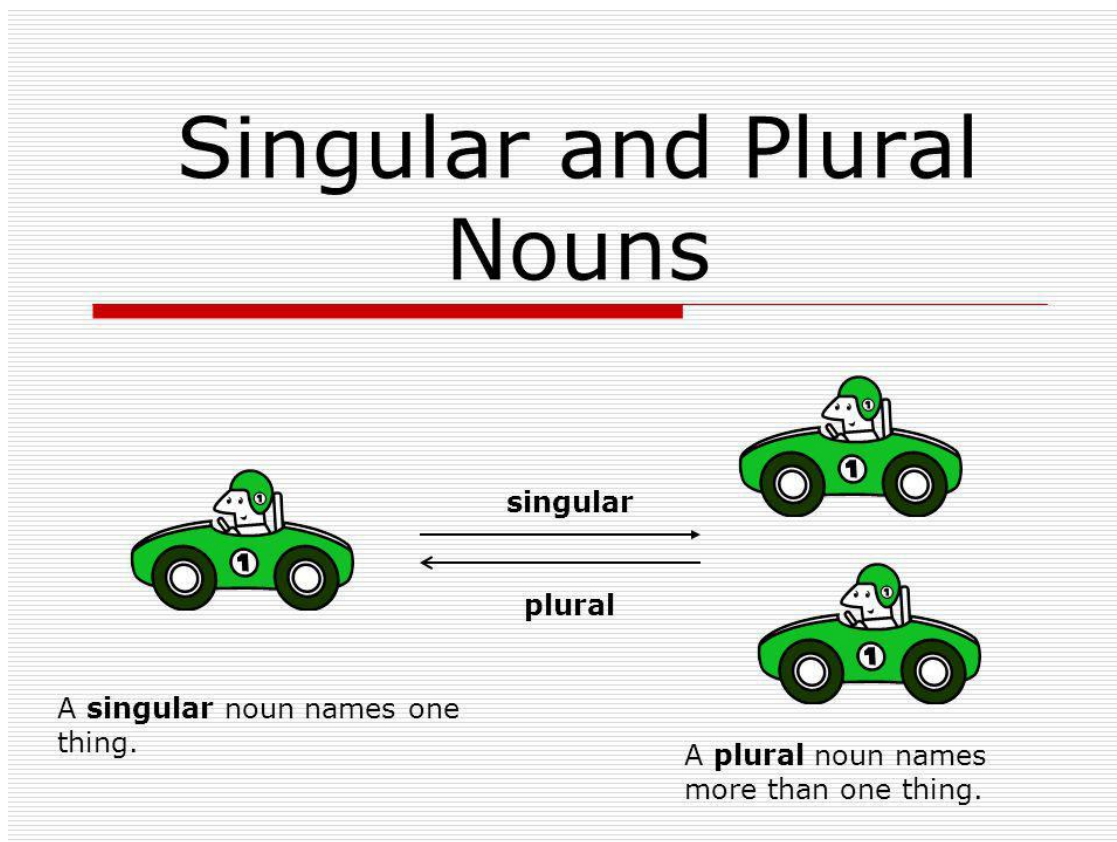


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Nouns can be singular and plural. When a **noun** indicates one person, animal, place, thing, or idea, it is a **singular** noun. When a noun indicates more than one, it is **plural**.



via

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/basic-literacy-ks3-eal-plural-and-singular-nouns-11394167>

Some English nouns ([countable nouns](#)) have singular (*street, book, dog*) or plural (*streets, books, dogs*) forms.

[Uncountable nouns](#) don't have plural forms.

- *money*
- *water*

- *music*
- *information*

## How to form plural

Most singular nouns form the plural by adding **-s**.

- *One book → Polly has two **books**.*
- *One pencil → The teacher gave me three **pencils**.*
- *A cat → We saw two **cats** outside the house.*
- *A question → Do you have any **questions**?*

But there are also some specific spelling rules for plurals.

1. For nouns ending in **'-s'**, **'-ss'**, **'-sh'**, **'-ch'**, **'-x'** and **'-z'**, add **'-es'**:

- *A bus → All the **buses** stop here.*
- *A glass → I had two **glasses** of wine last night.*
- *A brush → I prefer soft **brushes** for my hair.*
- *A peach → Sandy bought fresh **peaches** at the market.*
- *A box → There were **boxes** with presents under the Christmas tree.*
- *A quiz → I like taking fun **quizzes**\*.*

Note: When a word ends in a singular **'z'**, the **'z'** is doubled and **'-es'** is added.

2. For nouns ending in a consonant + **'-y'**, change the **'-y'** to **'-ies'**:

- *A city → I visited many **cities**.*
- *A story → My grandmother knows many interesting **stories**.*
- *A country → How many **countries** are there in the world?*
- *A family → Ten **families** moved into new houses last month.*

3. For nouns ending in **'-y'** and the letter before the **'-y'** is a vowel, simply add an **'-s'** to make it plural:

- *A ray → **X-rays** can be used in many ways.*
- *A boy → How many **boys** are there in your class?*

4. For most nouns ending in **'-o'**, add **'-s'** (*kilos, photos, radios, etc*). But there are several

common nouns that need **'-es'** instead:

- *Potato* → Jane bought two **kilos** of potatoes at the market.
- *Tomato* → **Tomatoes** are good in any salad.
- *Hero* → Batman and Superman are my two favorite **superheroes**.
- *Echo* → Loud **echoes** could be heard in the woods.

5. For nouns ending in **'-f'** or **'-fe'**, change **'-f / -fe'** to **'-ves'**:

- *A leaf* → Many trees lose their **leaves** in Autumn.
- *A wife* → In some countries a man can have several **wives**.
- *A knife* → A good chef always takes care of his **knives**.

6. If the singular noun ends in **'-us'**, the plural ending is frequently **'-i'**:

- *Cactus* → There are many **cacti** in the desert.
- *Focus* → Optical elements have two **foci**.

7. If the singular noun ends in **'-is'**, the plural ending is **'-es'**:

- *Analysis* → The laboratory performs many different **analyses**.
- *Basis* → The theory has a variety of **bases**.
- *Axis* → The structure has three **axes**.

8. If the singular noun ends in **'-on'**, the plural ending is **'-a'**:

- *Phenomenon* → A variety of interesting **phenomena** is being discussed.
- *Criterion* → There are five **criteria** to consider.

9. Some nouns have a fixed plural form and take a plural verb. They are not used in the singular, or they have a different meaning in the singular:

- *trousers, jeans, glasses, savings, thanks, steps, stairs, customs, congratulations, tropics, wages, spectacles, outskirts, goods, wits.*
- *Where are my blue **trousers**?*
- *These new **glasses** look great on you!*

10. Some nouns have **the same** form in the singular and the plural:

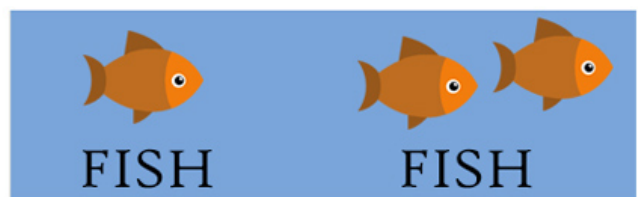
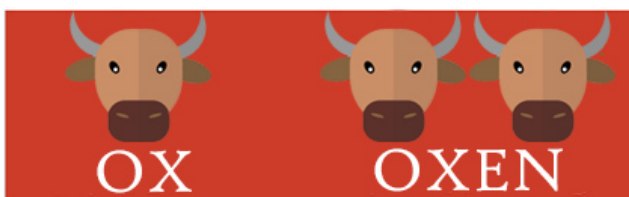
- *Sheep* → The **sheep** ignore/ignores the dogs.

- *Fish* → *There are many **fish** in the sea.* (However, if different types of fish are meant, use 'fishes'.)

## **Irregular plural nouns**

Some nouns in English have **irregular** plural forms. Irregular nouns follow no specific rules, so it's best to memorize them or look them up in the dictionary. The most common are:

# IRREGULAR PLURALS



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via <http://www.vocabularypage.com/2017/08/12-irregular-plural-nouns.html>

Watch this video from Shaw English Online to see how plural nouns are formed:

See also:

[Subject and Predicate Agreement](#)

[Abstract and Concrete Nouns](#)

[Countable and Uncountable Nouns](#)