





# Singular and Plural nouns

*Parts of speech*



## Objectives:

- ✓ to distinguish between singular and plural nouns
  - ✓ to recognize and spell correctly various singular and plural nouns
  - ✓ to make basic sentence using singular and plural nouns
- 



**Nouns can be  
singular or  
plural.**



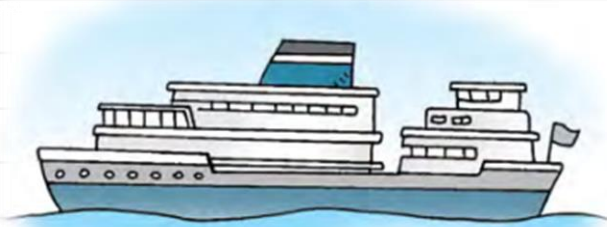
1

**Singular  
nouns**





When you are talking  
about one person,  
animal, place, or  
thing, use a singular  
noun.



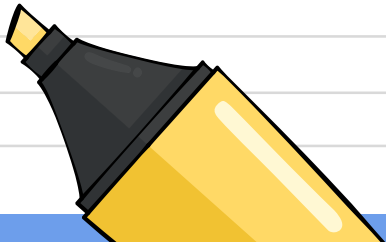
a ship



### Word File

These are also singular nouns:

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| an airplane | a letter       |
| a bicycle   | a map          |
| a boy       | a photograph   |
| a bus       | a refrigerator |
| a comb      | a slide        |
| a girl      | a swing        |
| a key       | a van          |





- ▶ Use **a** or **an** before singular nouns.  
Use **an** before words beginning with **vowels** (a, e, i, o, u). For example, say:

**an** axe

**an** egg

**an** envelope

**an** ice cream

**an** igloo

**an** orange

**an** umbrella

**an** uncle

- ▶ But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **a** (not **an**) before these words that begin with **u**:

**a** uniform

**a** university



- ▶ Use **a** before words beginning with the other letters of the alphabet, called **consonants**.  
For example, say:

**a** basket

**a** bowl

**a** car

**a** hill

**a** house

**a** rainbow

**a** monster

**a** pillow

**a** watch

**a** zoo

- ▶ But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **an** (not **a**) before these words that begin with **h**:

**an** heir

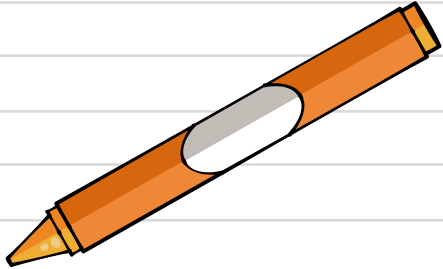
**an** honor

**an** hour



2

Plural  
nouns



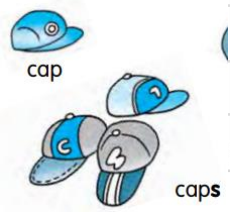


When you are talking about two or more people, animals, places, or things, use plural nouns.



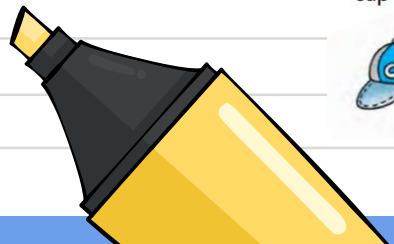
A)

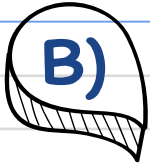
Most nouns are made plural by adding **-s** at the end.



### Word File

Singular	Plural
bird	birds
broom	brooms
camel	camels
desk	desks
doll	dolls
egg	eggs
flower	flowers
fork	forks
game	games
lamb	lambs
nest	nests
pen	pens
photo	photos
shirt	shirts
spoon	spoons





## Some plural nouns end in **-es**.



brush



brushes

watch



watches



fox

foxes



### Word File

#### Singular

beach

branch

box

bush

church

dish

dress

sandwich

witch

#### Plural

beaches

branches

boxes

bushes

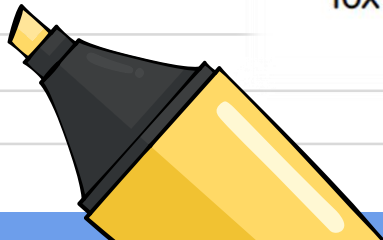
churches

dishes

dresses

sandwiches

witches





When the last letters of singular nouns are **ch**, **sh**, **s**, **ss** or **x**, you usually add **-es** to form the plural.



bus



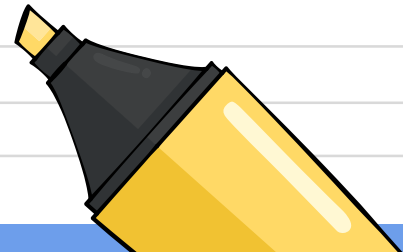
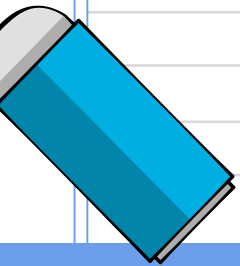
glass



buses

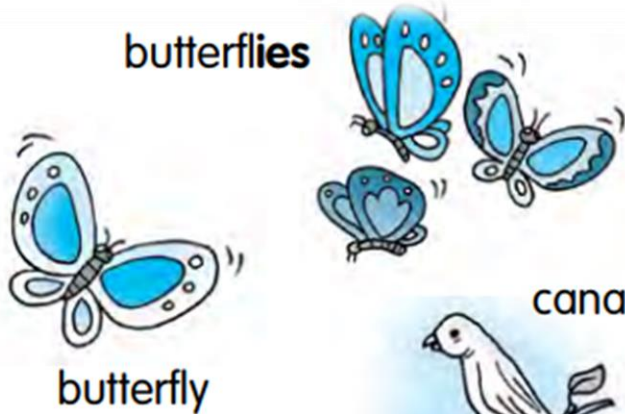


glasses



C)

Some plural nouns end  
in **-ies**.



Word File

Singular

baby

cherry

diary

dictionary

fairy

family

fly

lady

library

puppy

story

strawberry

Plural

**babies**

**cherries**

**diaries**

**dictionaries**

**fairies**

**families**

**flies**

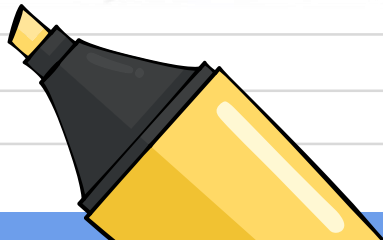
**ladies**

**libraries**

**puppies**

**stories**

**strawberries**



## Grammar Help



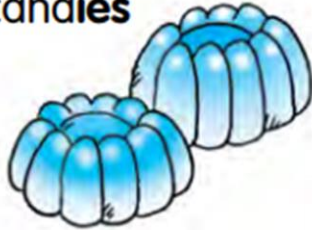
Nouns like these are made plural by changing **y** to **i**, and adding **-es**.



candy



candies



lily

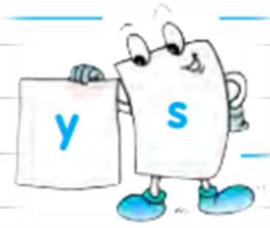


lilies



D)

What if there is a vowel before the y? In that case, add **-s** to form the plural.



### Word File

#### Singular

- chimney
- cowboy
- day
- donkey
- jersey
- kidney
- monkey
- toy
- trolley
- valley

#### Plural

- chimneys
- cowboys
- days
- donkeys
- jerseys
- kidneys
- monkeys
- toys
- trolleys
- valleys



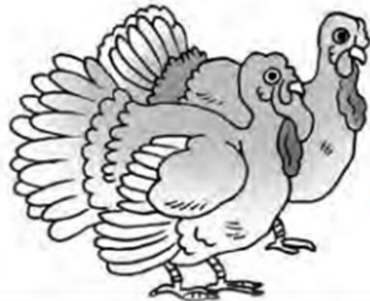
key



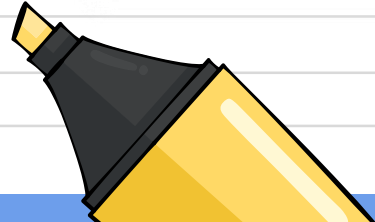
turkey



keys



turkeys



E)

If a noun ends in **-f**, you often change **f** to **v**, and add **-es**.

Singular

calf  
elf  
half  
leaf

Plural

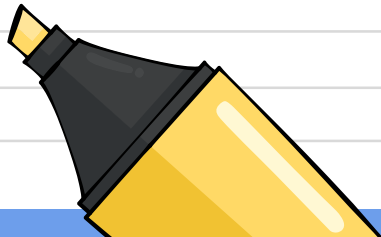
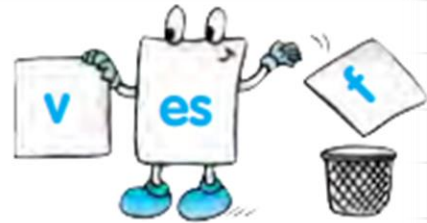
calves  
elves  
halves  
leaves

Singular

loaf  
shelf  
thief  
wolf

Plural

loaves  
shelves  
thieves  
wolves





Often nouns that end in **-f**, just need **-s** to form the plural.



### Singular

### Plural

chef  
chief  
cliff

chefs  
chiefs  
cliffs

### Singular

### Plural

handkerchief  
roof  
sheriff

handkerchiefs  
roofs  
sheriffs

For some words that end in **-f**, the plural can be spelled in two different ways.

### Singular

### Plural

dwarf  
hoof  
scarf

dwarfs or dwarves  
hoofs or hooves  
scarfs or scarves







With some words that end in **-fe**, you change **f** to **v**, and add **-s**.

**Singular**

knife  
life  
wife

**Plural**

knives  
lives  
wives



But you only add **-s** to **giraffe** to form the plural.



F)

If a noun ends in **-o**, you just add **-s** to form the plural.



a rhino



rhinos



a kangaroo



kangaroos

### Word File

#### Singular

a hippo  
a video  
a zoo

#### Plural

hippos  
videos  
zoos



But with some nouns that end in **-o**, you add **-es** to form the plural.

a flamingo



flamingoes

### Word File

Singular

a tomato

a potato

a hero

Plural

tomatoes

potatoes

heroes





With some nouns that end in **-o**, you can add either **-s** or **-es** to form the plural.

### Singular

a mango  
a mosquito  
a zero  
a buffalo

### Plural

mangoes  
mosquitoes  
zeroes  
buffaloes

### Plural

mangos  
mosquitos  
zeros  
buffalos



G)

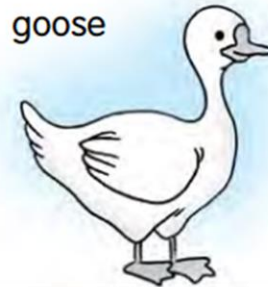
Some plural nouns don't follow the **-s** rule. They don't end in **-s, -es, -ies** or **-ves**. Instead, the word changes form.



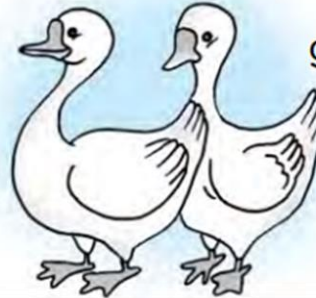
mouse



mice



goose



geese





### Word File

#### Singular

child

man

ox

tooth

woman

#### Plural

children

men

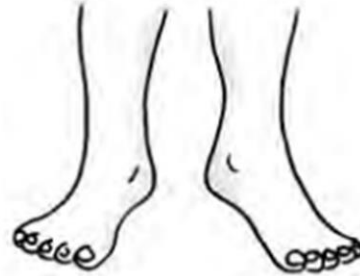
oxen

teeth

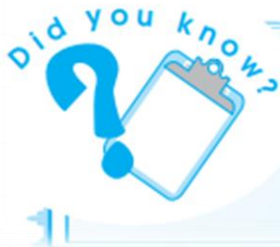
women



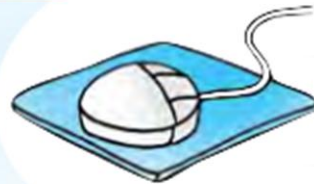
foot



feet



The plural of the **mouse** that you use with your computer is either **mice** or **mouses**.

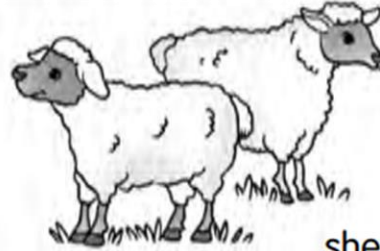




Some plural nouns are the same as the singular noun.



sheep



sheep



reindeer



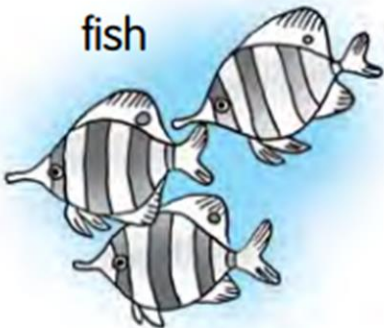
reindeer





fish

fish



### Word File

Singular

bison  
deer

Plural

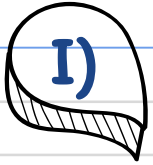
bison  
deer



You can use **fishes** as the plural of **fish** when you are talking about different kinds of fish: all the **fishes** of the Pacific Ocean.







# Some nouns are always plural.

binoculars



goggles



pliers



jeans

## Word File

pants	scissors
pajamas	sneakers
shorts	slippers
trousers	stockings
sandals	





Another word for **spectacles** is **glasses**.



spectacles



You can make these plural nouns singular by using **a pair of**:

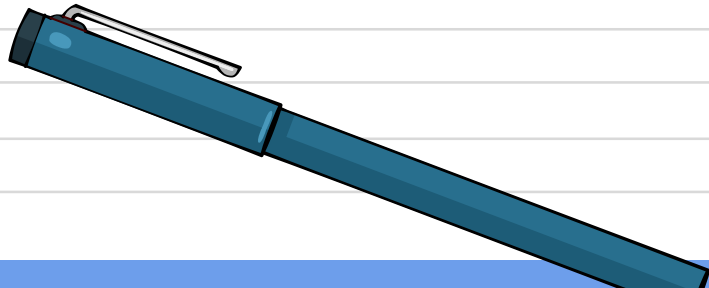
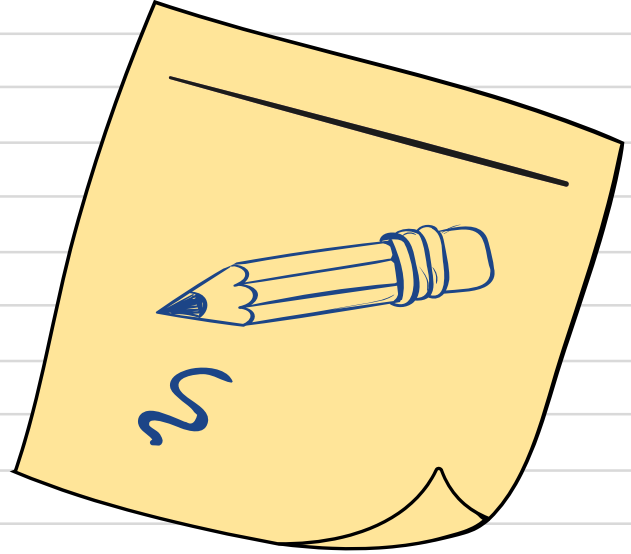
- a pair of binoculars
- a pair of spectacles
- a pair of goggles
- a pair of jeans
- a pair of shorts
- a pair of pliers



a pair of shoes



Let's do  
some  
exercises!



## Exercise 1.

Look at the words below. Do you know which ones are *singular* and which are *plural*? Put a checkmark (✓) in the correct box.

	Singular	Plural
word	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
pencils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
fan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
hat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
kites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
crab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
foxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Exercise 2.

Do you add -s or -es to these singular nouns to make them plural? Write your answers on the lines.

Singular

Plural

1 desk \_\_\_\_\_

2 class \_\_\_\_\_

3 comb \_\_\_\_\_

4 mug \_\_\_\_\_

5 bus \_\_\_\_\_

Singular

Plural

6 basket \_\_\_\_\_

7 peach \_\_\_\_\_

8 belt \_\_\_\_\_

9 taxi \_\_\_\_\_

10 box \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 3.

Do you change *-y* to *-ies*, or just add *-s* to make these singular nouns plural? Write your answers.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 key	_____	6 toy	_____
2 city	_____	7 baby	_____
3 butterfly	_____	8 party	_____
4 monkey	_____	9 chimney	_____
5 fly	_____	10 lady	_____

## Exercise 4.

All these singular nouns end with -o. Add either -s or -es as you write the plurals on the line.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 video	_____	6 radio	_____
2 piano	_____	7 hippo	_____
3 mango	_____	8 zoo	_____
4 kangaroo	_____	9 zero	_____
5 rhino	_____	10 photo	_____

**GOOD  
LUCK!**

