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Singular and Plural

List of words for 11+ practice
“Rules that turn one into many.”

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English Pluralisation Rules

1. Basic Rule: Add -s

Most nouns simply add **-s** to form the plural.

Examples: book → books, car → cars, dog → dogs

2. Add -es for Special Endings

If a word ends in **-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, or -z**, add **-es**.

Examples:

- bus → buses
 - bush → bushes
 - box → boxes
 - watch → watches
-

3. Words Ending in -y

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When -y follows a consonant → change to -ies

Examples: baby → babies, city → cities, story → stories

Exception: Proper names just add -s (Kennedy → Kennedys)

When -y follows a vowel → just add -s

Examples: toy → toys, day → days, boy → boys

4. Words Ending in -f or -fe

Some words change -f or -fe to -ves.

Examples: leaf → leaves, knife → knives, wife → wives

But many just add -s: roof → roofs, cliff → cliffs, chef → chefs

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5. Words Ending in -o

When **-o follows a consonant**, usually add **-es**.

Examples: hero → heroes, potato → potatoes, tomato → tomatoes

Common exceptions (add -s): piano → pianos, photo → photos, solo → solos

6. Irregular Plurals

Some words change completely and don't follow any pattern.

Examples:

- man → men
 - child → children
 - foot → feet
 - mouse → mice
 - person → people
 - tooth → teeth
-

7. Unchanging Plurals

Some words stay the same in both singular and plural form.

Examples: sheep, deer, fish, aircraft, series, species

One sheep, two sheep. One deer, five deer.

8. Foreign Origin Words

Words borrowed from Latin and Greek often keep their original plural forms.

Note: Many of these words now also accept regular English plurals (e.g., formulas, indexes).

Ending	Changes to	Example
-us	-i	radius → radii
-a	-ae	formula → formulae (or formulas)
-on	-a	phenomenon → phenomena
-is	-es	crisis → crises
-ix / -ex	-ices	index → indices, appendix → appendices

9. Compound Nouns

For hyphenated compound nouns, pluralize the **main noun** (usually the first word).

Examples:

- sister-in-law → sisters-in-law
- passer-by → passers-by
- mother-in-law → mothers-in-law

No.	Singular	Plural	Rule / Type
1	Mouse	Mice	Irregular vowel change
2	Man	Men	Irregular vowel change
3	Woman	Women	Irregular vowel change
4	Tooth	Teeth	Irregular vowel change
5	Foot	Feet	Irregular vowel change
6	Goose	Geese	Irregular vowel change
7	Louse	Lice	Irregular vowel change
8	Die	Dice	Irregular vowel change
9	Ox	Oxen	-en suffix
10	Child	Children	Irregular plural
11	Sheep	Sheep	Same in singular & plural

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12	Deer	Deer	Same in singular & plural
13	Fish	Fish / Fishes	Same in singular & plural (different species)
14	Moose	Moose	Same in singular & plural
15	Salmon	Salmon	Same in singular & plural
16	Trout	Trout	Same in singular & plural
17	Series	Series	Same in singular & plural
18	Species	Species	Same in singular & plural
19	Aircraft	Aircraft	Same in singular & plural
20	Swine	Swine	Same in singular & plural
21	Cactus	Cacti	Latin (-us → -i)
22	Fungus	Fungi	Latin (-us → -i)
23	Nucleus	Nuclei	Latin (-us → -i)
24	Focus	Foci	Latin (-us → -i)
25	Radius	Radii	Latin (-us → -i)
26	Syllabus	Syllabi	Latin (-us → -i)
27	Criterion	Criteria	Greek (-on → -a)
28	Phenomenon	Phenomena	Greek (-on → -a)
29	Thesis	Theses	Greek (-is → -es)
30	Analysis	Analyses	Greek (-is → -es)
31	Basis	Bases	Greek (-is → -es)
32	Axis	Axes	Greek (-is → -es)

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33	Alumnus	Alumni	Latin (male form)
34	Alumna	Alumnae	Latin (female form)
35	Larva	Larvae	Latin (-a → -ae)
36	Formula	Formulae	Latin (-a → -ae)
37	Antenna	Antennae / Antennas	Latin (-a → -ae), both used
38	Leaf	Leaves	-f → -ves
39	Wolf	Wolves	-f → -ves
40	Knife	Knives	-fe → -ves
41	Life	Lives	-fe → -ves
42	Shelf	Shelves	-f → -ves
43	Calf	Calves	-f → -ves
44	Thief	Thieves	-f → -ves
45	Wife	Wives	-fe → -ves
46	Self	Selves	-f → -ves
47	Loaf	Loaves	-f → -ves
48	Person	People	Completely irregular
49	Appendix	Appendices	Latin (-ix → -ices)
50	Index	Indices / Indexes	Latin (-ex → -ices), both used
51	Tomato	Tomatoes	-o → -oes
52	Potato	Potatoes	-o → -oes

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53	Hero	Heroes	-o → -oes
54	Echo	Echoes	-o → -oes
55	Piano	Pianos	-o → -s (exception)
56	Photo	Photos	-o → -s (exception)
57	City	Cities	-y → -ies
58	Baby	Babies	-y → -ies
59	Lady	Ladies	-y → -ies
60	Country	Countries	-y → -ies

Complete English Pluralisation Reference Table

No.	Singular	Plural	Rule / Type
1	Mouse	Mice	Irregular vowel change (mutated plural)
2	Man	Men	Irregular vowel change
3	Woman	Women	Irregular vowel change (/ 'wom.ɪn/ → / 'wɪm.ɪn/)
4	Tooth	Teeth	Irregular vowel change
5	Foot	Feet	Irregular vowel change
6	Goose	Geese	Irregular vowel change
7	Louse	Lice	Irregular vowel change

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8	Die	Dice	Irregular (gaming cubes); dies (metal molds)
9	Ox	Oxen	Old English -en plural
9b	Brother	Brethren	-en suffix (religious/contextual)
10	Child	Children	Irregular + -en
10b	Person	Persons	Regular alternative (legal contexts)
11	Sheep	Sheep	Invariable (same form)
12	Deer	Deer	Invariable
13	Fish	Fish / Fishes	Invariable; fishes = different species
14	Moose	Moose	Invariable
15	Salmon	Salmon	Invariable
16	Trout	Trout	Invariable
17	Series	Series	Invariable
18	Species	Species	Invariable
19	Aircraft	Aircraft	Invariable
20	Swine	Swine	Invariable
20b	Cannon	Cannon	Invariable (weapons); cannons (replicas)
20c	Fruit	Fruit / Fruits	Usually invariable; fruits = types
21	Cactus	Cacti	Latin (-us → -i)
22	Fungus	Fungi	Latin (-us → -i)
23	Nucleus	Nuclei	Latin (-us → -i)

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24	Focus	Foci / Focuses	Latin (-us → -i) + English
25	Radius	Radii	Latin (-us → -i)
26	Syllabus	Syllabi / Syllabuses	Latin (-us → -i) + English
26b	Stimulus	Stimuli	Latin (-us → -i)
28	Phenomenon	Phenomena	Greek (-on → -a)
28b	Datum	Data	Latin (-um → -a); data now singular in IT
29	Thesis	Theses	Greek (-is → -es)
30	Analysis	Analyses	Greek (-is → -es)
31	Basis	Bases	Greek (-is → -es)
32	Axis	Axes	Greek (-is → -es)
32b	Parenthesis	Parentheses	Greek (-is → -es)
32c	Oasis	Oases	Greek (-is → -es)
33	Alumnus	Alumni	Latin (male)
34	Alumna	Alumnae	Latin (female)
34b	Corpus	Corpora	Latin (-us → -ora)
35	Larva	Larvae	Latin (-a → -ae)
36	Formula	Formulae / Formulas	Latin (-a → -ae); formulas now more common
37	Antenna	Antennae / Antennas	Latin (insects); antennas (TV/radio)
37b	Vertebra	Vertebrae	Latin (-a → -ae)
38	Leaf	Leaves	-f → -ves
39	Wolf	Wolves	-f → -ves

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40	Knife	Knives	-fe → -ves
41	Life	Lives	-fe → -ves
42	Shelf	Shelves	-f → -ves
43	Calf	Calves	-f → -ves
44	Thief	Thieves	-f → -ves
45	Wife	Wives	-fe → -ves
46	Self	Selves	-f → -ves
47	Loaf	Loaves	-f → -ves
47b	Scarf	Scarves / Scarfs	-f → -ves (both)
47c	Hoof	Hooves / Hoofs	Both acceptable
47d	Dwarf	Dwarves / Dwarfs	Dwarves (Tolkien); dwarfs (astronomy)
48	Person	People	Completely irregular (Latin persona → people)
50	Index	Indices / Indexes	Latin (-ex → -ices); indexes (books)
50b	Matrix	Matrices	Latin (-ix → -ices)
50c	Vertex	Vertices	Latin (-ex → -ices)
51	Tomato	Tomatoes	-o → -oes
52	Potato	Potatoes	-o → -oes
53	Hero	Heroes	-o → -oes
54	Echo	Echoes	-o → -oes
54b	Embargo	Embargoes	-o → -oes
54c	Volcano	Volcanoes / Volcanos	Both
55	Piano	Pianos	Vowel + -o → -s

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56	Photo	Photos	Vowel + -o → -s
56b	Zoo	Zoos	Vowel + -o → -s
56c	Kangaroo	Kangaroos	Vowel + -o → -s
57	City	Cities	Consonant + -y → -ies
58	Baby	Babies	Consonant + -y → -ies
59	Lady	Ladies	Consonant + -y → -ies
60	Country	Countries	Consonant + -y → -ies
60b	Boy	Boys	Vowel + -y → -s
60c	Day	Days	Vowel + -y → -s
61	Mother-in-law	Mothers-in-law	Compound: pluralize main noun
62	Passer-by	Passers-by	Compound: pluralize main noun
63	Court-martial	Courts-martial	Compound: pluralize main noun
64	Attorney general	Attorneys general	Plural before noun
65	Toothbrush	Toothbrushes	Compound: pluralize last word
66	Runner-up	Runners-up	Compound hyphenated
67	Penny	Pence / Pennies	Pence (amount); pennies (coins)
68	Means	Means	Singular & plural same
69	Offspring	Offspring	Invariable
70	Bison	Bison	Invariable
71	Rice	Rice	Uncountable → no plural

72	Advice	Advice	Uncountable
73	Furniture	Furniture	Uncountable
74	Information	Information	Uncountable
75	News	News	Uncountable (singular verb)

More examples:

76	Dormouse	Dormice	Irregular vowel change
77	Shrimp	Shrimp	Invariable
78	Cod	Cod	Invariable
79	Headquarters	Headquarters	Invariable
80	Crossroads	Crossroads	Invariable
81	Crisis	Crises	Greek (-is → -es)
82	Criterion	Criteria	Greek (-on → -a)
83	Bacterium	Bacteria	Latin (-um → -a)
84	Curriculum	Curricula / Curriculums	Latin (-um → -a)
85	Memorandum	Memoranda / Memorandums	Latin (-um → -a)
86	Medium	Media	Latin (-um → -a)
87	Appendix	Appendices / Appendixes	Latin (-ix → -ices)
88	Elf	Elves	-f → -ves

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89	Wharf	Wharves / Wharfs	-f → -ves
90	Torpedo	Torpedoes	-o → -oes
91	Mango	Mangoes / Mangos	-o → -oes
92	Mosquito	Mosquitoes	-o → -oes
93	Cargo	Cargoes / Cargos	-o → -oes
94	Son-in-law	Sons-in-law	Compound: pluralize main noun
95	Editor-in-chief	Editors-in-chief	Compound: pluralize main noun
96	Brother-in-law	Brothers-in-law	Compound: pluralize main noun
97	Luggage	Luggage	Uncountable
98	Equipment	Equipment	Uncountable
99	Homework	Homework	Uncountable
100	Bread	Bread	Uncountable
101	Water	Water	Uncountable
102	Money	Money	Uncountable
103	Staff	Staff	Special case
104	Craft	Craft	Invariable (watercraft/aircraft style)
105	House	Houses	Regular -s

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106	Bus	Buses	Add -es
107	Box	Boxes	Add -es
108	Church	Churches	Add -es
109	Glass	Glasses	Add -es
110	Dish	Dishes	Add -es

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