

Fact sheet 1

Singular or Plural?

Singular Noun Definition:

When a noun means one only, it is said to be singular.

Examples: boy, girl, book, church, box

Plural Noun Definition:

When a noun means more than one, it is said to be plural.

Examples: boys, girls, books, churches

Rule #1

The plural of nouns is usually formed by adding - **s** to a singular noun.

lamp	lamps
cat	cats
fork	forks
flower	flowers
pen	pens

Exercise: Write the plural of each of these nouns

chair	star	farm
storm	door	rock
owner	paper	cup

Rule #2

Nouns ending in **s**, **z**, **x**, **sh**, and **ch** form the plural by adding - **es**.

moss	mosses
buzz	buzzes
box	boxes
dish	dishes
church	churches

Exercise: Write the plural of each of these nouns

dress	brush	hex
wish	class	fox
cross	bench	bush
ax	grass	mantis

Special Note:

If you add - **s** to such nouns as **fox**, **bush**, and **bench**, you will find that you cannot pronounce them without making an additional syllable. This is why such nouns form the plural by adding - **es**.

Fact sheet 2

Singular and Plural?

Nouns ending in - **y** preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by changing - **y** to - **ies**.

Examples: lady, ladies; city, cities; army, armies

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words

fly	baby	pony	injury	cherry
lady	beauty	story	history	berry
city	sky	duty	study	theory

Rule #4

Nouns ending in **y** preceded by a vowel form their plurals by adding - **s**.

Example: boy, boys; day, days

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words

day	toy	essay	turkey	chimney
play	joy	valley	alley	volley

Rule #5

Most nouns ending in **o** preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by adding **es**.

Example: hero; heroes; grotto, grottoes

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words

motto	calico	buffalo	hero
potato	cargo	volcano	grotto
mosquito*	tomato	halo*	tornado*
buffalo*	portico*	veto	

*may add - **s** or - **es**

The following are among those that add **s** only

canto	solo	piano	lasso
halo	memento	albino	sirocco

Special Note:

Most nouns ending in **o** preceded by a vowel is formed into a plural by adding - **s**.

Example: folio, folios; cameo, cameos; studio, studios; portfolio, portfolios

Rule #6

Some nouns ending in **f** or **fe** are made plural by changing **f** or **fe** to **- ves**.

Example: beef, beeves; wife, wives

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words

calf	self	leaf	sheaf	life
loaf	shelf	half	wolf	knife
elf	half	thief	wife	gulf
chief	dwarf*	proof	turf	

The following form their plurals by adding **- s**.

chief, chiefs	fife, fifes	mischief, mischiefs	hoof, hoofs
roof, roofs	grief, griefs	kerchief, kerchiefs	safe, safes

IRREGULAR PLURALS

man, men	foot, feet	mouse, mice
woman, women	tooth, teeth	louse, lice
child, children	ox, oxen	goose, geese

The following nouns have no singular:

scissors	oats	tongs	dregs
trousers	pinchers	bellows	snuffers
cattle	shears	measles	mumps
victuals	tweezers	vespers	

Some nouns are always singular. Some of these nouns may be used in the plural when different kinds are meant as sugars, coffees, cottons

gold	silver	wheat	corn
molasses	copper	sugar	cotton

Singular nouns use this and that.

Plural nouns use these and those.

Plurals

Many words ending in **y** make their plurals by changing the **y** to **ies**.

A Make these words plural:

1. penny + **ies** = _____

2. fly + **ies** = _____

3. sky + **ies** = _____

4. ferry + **ies** = _____

5. body + **ies** = _____

6. try + **ies** = _____

7. story + **ies** = _____

8. berry + **ies** = _____

B Choose four of the plurals you have made and then use them in a sentence of your own.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Plurals adding es

The rule is: If a word ends in sh, ch, ss, x, s or o, then add es to make it more than one.

One bush, two

One kiss, two

One watch, two

One bus, two

One domino, two

One box, two

One witch, two

One patch, two

One wish, two

One class, two

Use some of the words you have made to fill in the spaces.

1. The fairy gave me three _____.
2. My Mum gives me lots of good night _____.
3. There were lots of _____ at the bus station.
4. We played hide and seek and I hid in the _____.
5. Max and James had a game of _____.
6. There are four _____ in year three; 3G, 3Y, 3B and 3R.
7. My sister has two Baby-G _____.
8. The presents were piled up in lots of colourful _____.
9. The wicked _____ turned Jonathan into a mouse.
10. Mum sewed two _____ onto Tom's jeans.

Circle the es words in each line

11 . wantwatcheswhatwitchescrunch

12 . butbushesbutterclassesglasses

13 . patchinpatcheshatchboxesbigger

14 . buseswhichkissesshewisheswhy

Draw two dominoes

Draw two boxes

Now put these words into sentences of your own

1. Foxes

2. Glasses

3. churches

4. Dishes

5. Bushes

Spelling Test - Plurals

1. Two _____ were hiding in the _____.
2. The _____ played a game of _____.
3. There are four _____ in year three.
4. Sid washed the _____ and the _____.
5. Mum sewed two _____ on Dan's trousers.
6. The prince gave the princess lots of _____.
7. The wizard gave me three _____.
8. Most _____ have _____ on them.
9. All the _____ were in special _____.
10. There are lots of _____ in Dubai.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Learn these words for a test next week. You may use the **SACAWAC** method:

See & Cover & Write & Check or you may use a different way, depending on your preferred learning style. For example you may practice them on your computer or by tracing each word in a tray of sand. If you do not use this sheet please ask one of your parents to write in your diary the method you used.

foxes					
watches					
crosses					
bushes					
boxes					
buses					
dominoes					
classes					
churches					
dishes					
patches					
glasses					
kisses					
wishes					