

A collection of various objects and animals arranged in a curved path around the central text. The items include a baby in a pink blanket, a nutcracker, a soccer ball, a potted plant, a chicken, a pair of shoes, a box of apple juice, an orange, a teapot, a dinosaur, a bag of flour, a stack of pancakes, a toy astronaut, a cone, a cow, a clock, a car, a bus, a train, a daisy, and a tomato.

Making Singular Nouns Plural

Singular and Plural

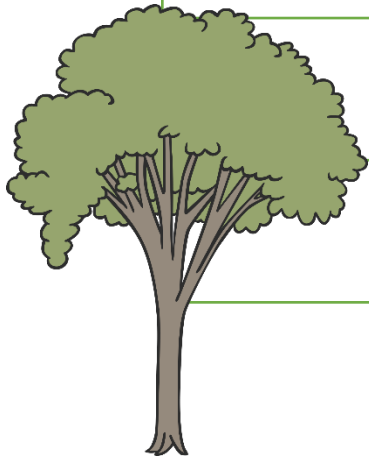
The word **singular** means just **one** of something, for example a house or a dog.

The word **plural** means **more than one** of something, for example houses or dogs.

The word **singular** is very similar to **single**. This can help us remember the meanings of **singular** and **plural**.

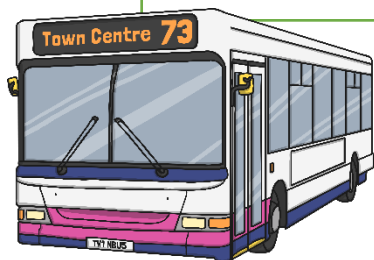
Most singular nouns form the plural by adding **-s**.

singular form	plural form
boat	boats <u>̣</u>
car	cars <u>̣</u>
house	houses <u>̣</u>
tree	trees <u>̣</u>



Singular nouns ending in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch' or 'sh'
form the plural by adding **–es**.

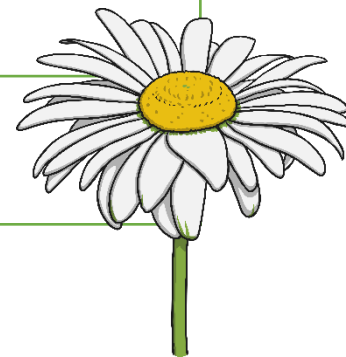
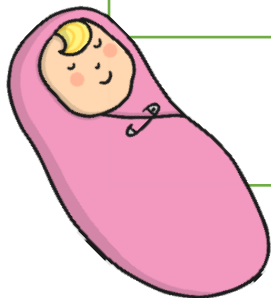
singular form	plural form
bus	buses
box	boxes
church	churches
wish	wishes



Try saying 'buss', 'boxs' or 'wishes' and you will see why nouns which end in a hissing sound use –es in the plural!

Singular nouns ending in a **consonant and the letter 'y'** form the plural by changing the 'y' to an 'i' and adding **–es**.

singular form	plural form
penn y	penn <u>i</u> <u>es</u>
bab y	bab <u>i</u> <u>es</u>
dais y	dais <u>i</u> <u>es</u>
sp y	sp <u>i</u> <u>es</u>



Singular nouns ending in a **vowel and the letter 'y'** form the plural by simply adding **–s**.

singular form	plural form
boy	boys
toy	toys
valley	valleys
tray	trays



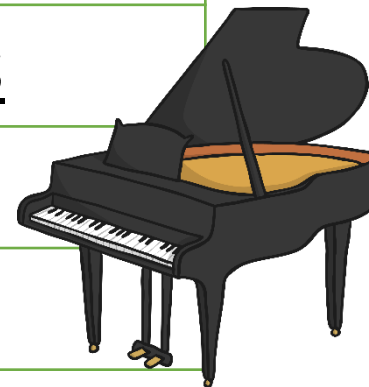
So, most of the time, we make a plural noun by adding an **-s**, **-es** or **-ies**.

BUT

The English language has some rule-breaking nouns in it. These are nouns that have their own special rules or spellings for making them into plurals.

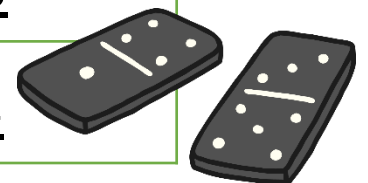
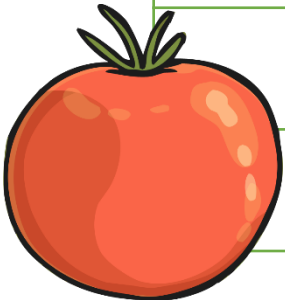
Some singular nouns ending in 'o' form the plural by adding **-s**.

singular form	plural form
piano	pianos <u>̄</u>
solo	solos <u>̄</u>
photo	photos <u>̄</u>
memo	memos <u>̄</u>
kilo	kilos <u>̄</u>
video	videos <u>̄</u>



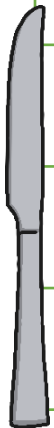
But some singular nouns ending in 'o'
form the plural by adding **-es**!

singular form	plural form
potato	potatoes
hero	heroes
tomato	tomatoes
echo	echoes
torpedo	torpedoes
domino	dominoes



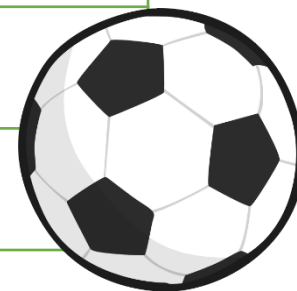
Nouns that end in 'f' or 'fe' usually form the plural by dropping the 'f' and adding **-ves**.

singular form	plural form
thief	thie <u>ves</u>
knife	kniv <u>es</u>
wife	wiv <u>es</u>
elf	elv <u>es</u>
leaf	leav <u>es</u>



However, some nouns that end in 'f' form the plural by simply adding -s.

singular form	plural form
cliff	cliffs
earmuff	earmuffs
foodstuff	foodstuffs
cuff	cuffs
playoff	playoffs
roof	roofs

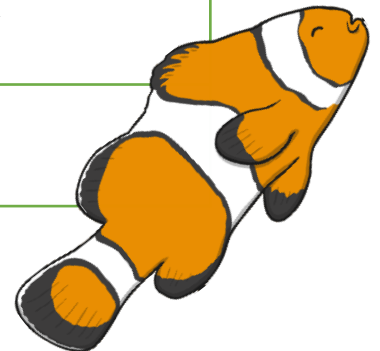
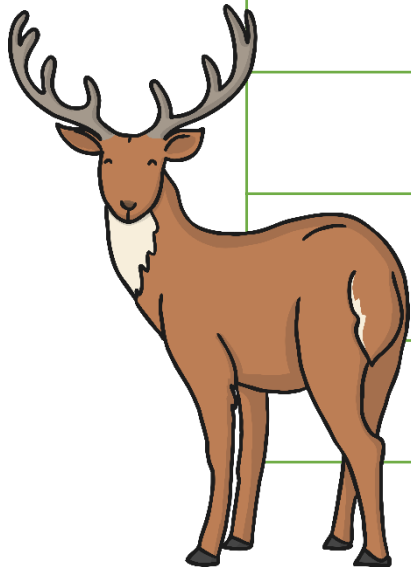


Top Tip

If you can hear the sound 'f' in the plural noun (for example 'cliffs', you probably spell the plural form with an 'f'. If you can hear a 'v' sound (as in 'wives'), then you will probably need to use a **-ves** plural.

Some tricky nouns are the same in the singular and the plural forms.

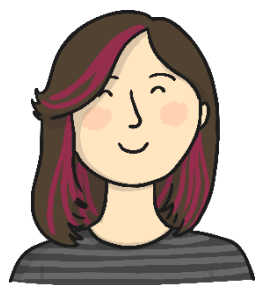
singular form	plural form
sheep	sheep
fish	fish
deer	deer
aircraft	aircraft
species	species



Some nouns are completely irregular and do not follow any of these patterns.

These plurals are called mutated (or mutating) plurals.

For example:



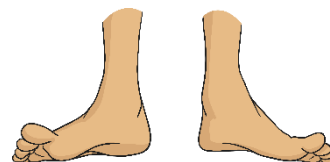
woman



women



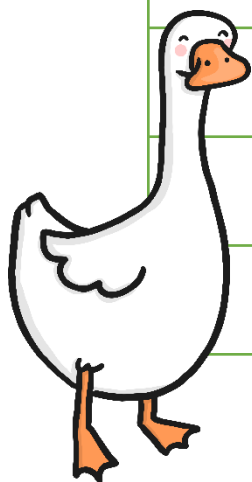
foot



feet

More Examples of Irregular (Mutated) Plural Nouns

singular form	plural form
man	men
child	children
tooth	teeth
mouse	mice
goose	geese
person	people



Discuss with an adult, what would you do to these nouns to make them plural?

singular form	To form the plural.....	plural form
boat		
bus		
penny		
piano		
domino		
thief		
cliff		
sheep		
trousers		
ox		
foot		
person		

ANSWERS!

singular form	To form the plural.....	plural form
boat	add -s	boats
bus	add -es	buses
penny	change y to i, add -es	pennies
piano	add -s	pianos
domino	add -es	dominoes
thief	drop f, add -ves	thieves
cliff	add -s	cliffs
sheep	do nothing	sheep
trousers	do nothing	trousers
ox	change the word	oxen
foot	change the word	feet
person	change the word	people