

HOW TO FORM PLURAL NOUNS

Latinate plurals

These nouns are from Latin and other languages.

SINGULAR	PLURAL
addendum	addenda
alga	algae
alumnus	alumni
amoeba	amoebae
antenna	antennae
bacterium	bacteria
cactus	cacti
curriculum	curricula
datum	data
fungus	fungi
genus	genera
larva	larvae
memorandum	memoranda
stimulus	stimuli
syllabus	syllabi
vertebra	vertebrae

-o becoming -oes

Most nouns ending in -o are pluralized by adding an -s, but some take -es instead—for example:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
echo	echoes
embargo	embargoes
hero	heroes
potato	potatoes
tomato	tomatoes
torpedo	torpedoes
veto	veto

Changing vowel sounds

Some nouns change their central vowel sounds when pluralized—for example:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
foot	feet
goose	geese
louse	lice
man	men
mouse	mice
tooth	teeth
woman	women

-f becoming -ves

Some nouns ending in -f are pluralized by dropping the -f and adding -ves:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
calf	calves
elf	elves
half	halves
hoof	hooves
knife	knives
leaf	leaves
life	lives
loaf	loaves
self	selves
shelf	shelves
thief	thieves
wife	wives
wolf	wolves

-ix becoming -ices

Some nouns ending in -ix are pluralized by dropping the -ix and adding -ices:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
appendix	appendices
index	indices
matrix	matrices

-is becoming -es

Some nouns ending in -is are pluralized by dropping the -is and adding -es:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
axis	axes
analysis	analyses
basis	bases
crisis	crises
diagnosis	diagnoses
ellipsis	ellipses
emphasis	emphases
hypothesis	hypotheses
neurosis	neuroses
oasis	oases
paralysis	paralyses
parenthesis	parentheses
thesis	theses

Unchanged plurals

A few nouns are unchanged in their plural forms:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
barracks	barracks
deer	deer
fish	fish
gallows	gallows
means	means
offspring	offspring
series	series
sheep	sheep
species	species

HOW TO FORM PLURAL NOUNS

THE VERY BASIC RULES

The plural form of most nouns is created simply by adding the letter *s*.

- more than one snake = snakes
- more than one ski = skis
- more than one Barrymore = Barrymores

Words that end in *-ch, x, s* or *s-like* sounds, however, will require an *-es* for the plural:

- more than one witch = witches
- more than one box = boxes
- more than one gas = gases
- more than one bus = buses
- more than one kiss = kisses
- more than one Jones = Joneses

With words that end in a consonant and a *y*, you'll need to change the *y* to an *i* and add *es*.

- more than one baby = babies
- more than one gallery = galleries
(Notice the difference between this and *galleys*, where the final *y* is not preceded by a consonant.)
- more than one reality = realities

**NOTE: This rule does not apply to proper nouns:
more than one Kennedy = Kennedys**

There are several nouns that have irregular plural forms. Plurals formed in this way are sometimes called **mutated (or mutating) plurals**.

- more than one child = children
- more than one woman = women
- more than one man = men
- more than one person = people
- more than one goose = geese
- more than one mouse = mice
- more than one barracks = barracks
- more than one deer = deer

IMPORTANT:

NEVER EVER USE AN APOSTROPHE TO CREATE A PLURAL NOUN!