

Singular Nouns and Plural Nouns

Nouns can be singular or plural.

Singular Nouns

When you are talking about one person, animal, place, or thing, use a singular noun. For example, a boy, a cup, an elephant.

Use “a” or “an” before singular nouns.

Use “a” before words beginning with consonants. For example, say:

a basket
a rainbow
a bowl
a monster
a car a pillow
a hill a watch
a house

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

Use “an” before words beginning with vowels (a, e, i, o, u). For example, say:

an axe
an igloo
an egg
an orange
an envelope
an umbrella

Plural Nouns

When you are talking about two or more people, animals, places, or things, use plural nouns. Most nouns are made plural by adding “s” at the end. For example,

Singular	Plural
bird	birds
mug	mugs
girl	girls

Some plural nouns end in “es”. When the last letters of singular nouns are ch, sh, s, ss or x, you usually add “es” to form the plural. For example,

Singular	Plural
bus	buses
glass	glasses
brush	brushes

Some plural nouns end in “ies”. Nouns like these are made plural by changing y to i, and adding “es”. For example,

Singular	Plural
baby	babies
cherry	cherries
diary	diaries

What if there is a vowel before the y? In that case, add “s” to form the plural. For example,

Singular	Plural
key	keys
turkey	turkeys

If a noun ends in “**f**”, you often change **f** to **v**, and add “**es**”. For example,

Singular	Plural
calf	calves
loaf	loaves
shelf	shelves

With some words that end in “**fe**”, you change **f** to **v**, and add “**s**”. For example, “**knife**” is singular and “**knives**” is plural. But for word like “giraffe” you only add “s” to form the plural.

For some nouns ending in “**o**”, you just add “s” to form the plural. For example, “**rhino**” is singular and “**rhinos**” is plural.

For other words ending in “o” you add “es” to form the plural. For example, “**potato**” is singular and “**potatoes**” is plural.

With some nouns that end in “**o**”, you can add either “**s**” or “**es**” to form the plural. For example, The noun “**mango**” can be countable or uncountable. In more general, commonly used, contexts, the plural form will be “**mangoes**”. However, in more specific contexts, the plural form can also be “**mangos**”, for example, in reference to various types of mangos or a collection of mangos.

Some plural nouns don’t follow the “s” rule. They don’t end in s, es, es or ves. Instead, the word changes form. For example, “**mouse**” is singular and “**mice**” is the plural form.

Some plural nouns are the same as the singular noun. For example, “**sheep**” can be singular or plural.

You can use “**fishes**” as the plural of “**fish**” when you are talking about different kinds of fish. For example, all the fishes of the Pacific Ocean.

Some nouns are always plural. For example, “jeans”. You can make these nouns singular by adding “a pair of”. for example. “A pair of jeans”.