

Rules for Forming Plural Nouns

To form the plural of nouns, follow the rules below.

1. Add *s* to most nouns.
girl/girls bicycle/bicycles printer/printers
2. Add *es* to nouns ending in *s*, *x*, *z*, *ch*, or *sh*.
class/classes ax/axes buzz/buzzes church/churches wish/wishes
3. For nouns ending in *y* preceded by a consonant, change *y* to *i* and add *es*.
fly/flies party/parties daisy/daisies
4. For nouns ending in *y* preceded by a vowel, add *s*.
monkey/monkeys valley/valleys
5. For nouns ending in *o* preceded by a consonant, add *es*.
hero/heroes potato/potatoes
6. For nouns ending in *o* preceded by a vowel, add *s*.
Oreo/Oreos radio/radios patio/patios
7. For musical terms ending in *o*, add *s*.
solo/solos alto/altos piano/pianos
8. For nouns ending in *f* or *fe*, usually change the *f* or *fe* to *ves*.
leaf/leaves shelf/shelves wolf/wolves
Exceptions: chief/chiefs chef/chefs safe/safes
9. Add *s* to the end of singular nouns ending in *ful*.
cupful/cupfuls spoonful/spoonfuls
10. Change the spelling of some words.
cactus/cacti mouse/mice goose/geese woman/women
11. Leave some nouns as they are.
sheep/sheep deer/deer fish/fish moose/moose
12. Add *s* to the most important noun in a hyphenated word.
editor-in-chief/editors-in-chief brother-in-law/brothers-in-law
13. Add *s* to proper nouns which do not end in *s*. Add *es* to proper nouns which do end in *s*.
Mr. and Mrs. Walker/the Walkers Mr. and Mrs. Ross/the Rosses