

Singular and Plural Master List

Rules for Making Plural Nouns

1. Adding '-s' to Make Plurals

This is the most common way to make a noun plural. We simply add '-s' to the end of the word.

Singular → Plural

- cat → cats
- tree → trees
- house → houses
- ball → balls
- desk → desks
- pencil → pencils
- flower → flowers
- bird → birds
- car → cars
- friend → friends

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2. Adding '-es' to Words Ending in -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, or -z

When a word ends in these letters or letter combinations, we add '-es' to make it plural.

Singular → Plural

- box → boxes
- bench → benches
- bush → bushes

- class → classes
- branch → branches
- gas → gases
- brush → brushes
- beach → beaches
- fox → foxes
- buzz → buzzes
- dish → dishes
- watch → watches
- dress → dresses
- match → matches

3. Words Ending in '-y'

For words that end in a consonant + y, change the 'y' to 'i' and add '-es'.

For words that end in a vowel + y, just add '-s'.

Consonant + y:

- baby → babies
- city → cities
- puppy → puppies
- butterfly → butterflies
- family → families
- fairy → fairies
- story → stories
- country → countries
- diary → diaries

Vowel + y:

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- toy → toys
- boy → boys
- day → days
- monkey → monkeys
- key → keys
- ray → rays

4. Words Ending in '-f' or '-fe'

Many words ending in '-f' or '-fe' change to '-ves' in the plural.

Singular → Plural

- leaf → leaves
- wolf → wolves
- shelf → shelves
- life → lives
- knife → knives
- wife → wives
- loaf → loaves
- thief → thieves

Some exceptions keep the 'f' and just add 's':

- roof → roofs
- chief → chiefs
- belief → beliefs
- hoof → hoofs

5: When words end in '-o', some take '-es' and others just take '-s' to form their plurals. Let's learn the most common ones!

Words that add '-es': Singular → Plural

- hero → heroes
- tomato → tomatoes
- potato → potatoes
- echo → echoes
- volcano → volcanoes
- torpedo → torpedoes
- veto → vetoes
- mosquito → mosquitoes
- embargo → embargoes
- tornado → tornadoes
- mango → mangoes
- cargo → cargoes
- buffalo → buffaloes
- domino → dominoes

Remember: Most words that end in a consonant + o take '-es' in the plural.

However, some words ending in '-o' just add '-s':

- piano → pianos
- photo → photos
- radio → radios
- video → videos
- studio → studios
- zoo → zoos
- stereo → stereos

- bamboo → bamboos
- kangaroo → kangaroos
- portfolio → portfolios

6. The following nouns form their plural by a change of vowel-

Singular → Plural

- man → men
- woman → women
- foot → feet
- tooth → teeth
- mouse → mice
- goose → geese

Some words change completely to become plural:

- child → children
- ox → oxen
- person → people

7. Same in Singular and Plural

Some words stay the same whether they're singular or plural:

- sheep → sheep
- deer → deer
- fish → fish
- series → series
- species → species
- hair → hair