

Formation of plural nouns

The plural noun is generally formed by adding -s to the singular.

Cow (singular), cows (plural)

Boy, boys

Girl, girls

Book, books

Tree, trees

Dog, dogs

Pen, pens

Nouns ending in -s, -sh, -ch or -x form the plural by adding -es to the singular.

Class (singular), classes (plural)

Brush, brushes

Kiss, kisses

Match, matches

Dish, dishes

Most nouns ending in -o also form their plural by adding -es to the singular.

Mango (singular), mangoes (plural)

Hero, heroes

Potato, potatoes

Volcano, volcanoes

Note that a few nouns ending in -o merely add -s.

Dynamo (singular), dynamos (plural)

Piano, pianos

Photo, photos

Logo, logos

Kilo, kilos

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Nouns ending in a consonant + y form their plural by changing -y into -i and adding -es.

Baby (singular), babies (plural)

Lady, ladies

City, cities

Story, stories

The following nouns ending in -f or -fe form their plural by changing -f or -fe into v and adding -es.

Thief (singular), thieves (plural)

Wife, wives

Leaf, leaves

Half, halves

Self, selves

Calf, calves

Loaf, loaves

Knife, knives

Elf, elves

Wolf, wolves

Shelf, shelves

Most other nouns ending in -f or -fe add -s.

Chief (singular), chiefs

Gulf, gulfs

Safe, safes

Proof, proofs

A few nouns form their plural by making some changes to inside vowels.

Foot (singular), feet (plural)

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Man, men

Woman, women

Tooth, teeth

Mouse, mice

Goose, geese