

Nouns that exist only in the singular or plural form

In English, there are several nouns that exist only in the plural form. Except for a few, they all end in -s.

Examples are:

Amends (to make 'amends' for causing some loss)

Annals (pages of books of history)

Archives

Arms (weapons)

Arrears

Ashes (of a dead cremated body)

Auspices (patronage)

Bowels

Brains (intellect)

Contents

Customs (duty)

Earnings

Entrails

Fireworks

Funds (money)

Goods

Guts (bowels, courage)

Letters (in the expression 'a man of letters')

Looks (e.g. She has got attractive looks)

Manners (in the expression 'good manners')

Odds (in the expression 'heavy odds')

Outskirts

Pains (e.g. to take pains)

Premises (building)

Riches (wealth)

Stairs (e.g. a flight of stairs)

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Surroundings (environment)

Thanks

Troops

Tropics

Valuables

Wages

Proceeds

Tidings

Nuptials

Alms

Drawers

The following are unmarked plurals which do not end in -s. Examples are: cattle and plural.

Some words ending in -s do not change in the plural. Examples are:

Barracks

Crossroads

Headquarters

Means

Series

Species

Works (= factory)

Swiss

Special cases

Some singular uncountable nouns end in -s. They have no plural forms. Examples are: *news*, *billiards*, *draughts*, *measles* etc.

Measles is highly contagious.

Most words ending in -ics are also usually singular uncountables and have no plurals.

Examples are: *mathematics*, *physics*, *athletics*, *politics*.

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Politics is a dirty game.

Mathematics isn't the easiest of all subjects.

Other nouns which do not change in the plural are craft, sheep, fish and deer.