Fact sheet 2

Singular and Plural?

Nouns ending in \textbf{-y} preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by changing \textbf{-y} to \textbf{-ies}.

Examples: lady, ladies; city, cities; army, armies

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words

fly, baby, pony, injury, cherry
lady, beauty, story, history, berry
city, sky, duty, study, theory

Rule #4

Nouns ending in \textbf{y} preceded by a vowel form their plurals by adding \textbf{-s}.

Example: boy, boys; day, days

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words

day, toy, essay, turkey, chimney
play, joy, valley, alley, volley

Rule #5

Most nouns ending in \textbf{o} preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by adding \textbf{es}.

Example: hero, heroes; grotto, grottoes

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words
motto, calico, buffalo, hero
potato, cargo, volcano, grotto
mosquito*, tomato, halo*, tornado*
buffalo*, portico*, veto

*may add \textbf{-s} or \textbf{-es}

The following are among those that add \textbf{s} only

canto, solo, piano, lasso
halo, memento, albino, sirocco

Special Note:

Most nouns ending in \textbf{o} preceded by a vowel is formed into a plural by adding \textbf{-s}.

Example: folio, folios; cameo; cameos; studio, studios; portfolio, portfolios
Rule #6
Some nouns ending in f or fe are made plural by changing f or fe to - ves.

Example: beef, beeves; wife, wives

Exercise: Write the plural of the following words
- calf  self  leaf  sheaf  life
- loaf  shelf  half  wolf  knife
- elf  half  thief  wife  gulf
- chief  dwarf*  proof  turf

The following form their plurals by adding - s.
- chief, chiefs  fife, fifes  mischief, mischiefs  hoof, hoofs
- roof, roofs  grief, griefs  kerchief, kerchiefs  safe, safes

IRREGULAR PLURALS

- man, men  foot, feet  mouse, mice
- woman, women  tooth, teeth  louse, lice
- child, children  ox, oxen  goose, geese

The following nouns have no singular:
- scissors  oats  tongs  dregs
- trousers  pinchers  bellows  snuffers
- cattle  shears  measles  mumps
- victuals  tweezers  vespers

Some nouns are always singular. Some of these nouns may be used in the plural when different kinds are meant as sugars, coffees, cottons

- gold  silver  wheat  corn
- molasses  copper  sugar  cotton

Singular nouns use this and that.
Plural nouns use these and those.