

Fact sheet 2

Singular and Plural?

Nouns ending in - **y** preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by changing - **y** to - **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 **y** preceded by a vowel form their plurals by adding - **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 **o** preceded by a consonant is formed into a plural by adding **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 - **s** or - **es**

The following are among those that add **s** only

canto	solo	piano	lasso
halo	memento	albino	sirocco

Special Note:

Most nouns ending in **o** preceded by a vowel is formed into a plural by adding - **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.