

## English Plurals

The plural form of most nouns is created by adding the letter *s*.

- more than one snake = snakes
- more than one girl = girls
- more than one window = windows

Nouns that end in *-ch*, *x*, *s*, *z* or *s*-like sounds, add an *es* for the plural:

- more than one box = boxes
- more than one gas = gases
- more than one bus = buses
- more than one kiss = kisses

Nouns that end in a vowel and *y* add the letter *s*:

- more than one boy = boys
- more than one way = ways

Nouns that end in a consonant and *y* drop the *y* and add *ies*:

- more than one baby = babies
- more than one quarry = quarries

Many nouns that end in *o* take *es* in the plural:

- more than one potato = potatoes
- more than one hero = heroes

Some nouns ending in *o* break the above rule and get *os* in the plural form:

Other nouns ending in *o* get either *os* or *oes* in the plural forms:

Plurals of nouns that end in *f* or *fe* usually change the *f* sound to a *v* sound and add *s* or *-es*.

- more than one knife = knives
- more than one leaf = leaves
- more than one hoof = hooves
- more than one elf = elves



There are several nouns that have irregular plural forms, and this is where it becomes more complicated.

For some nouns the plural is formed by adding *n* or *en*

- more than one ox = oxen
- more than one child = children

For some nouns the plural is formed by changing the vowel

- more than one woman = women
- more than one man = men
- more than one foot = feet
- more than one goose = geese
- more than one mouse = mice

Some nouns have identical singular and plural forms

- more than one barracks = barracks
- more than one deer = deer
- more than one fish = fish

Some nouns just don't fit any of these patterns

- more than one person = people
- more than one dice = die
- more than one penny = pence

And finally some nouns are always singular, even if they appear to be plural in form. Such as:

- News
- Gymnastics
- Furniture
- Glasses
- Scissors

English has also borrowed a lot of words from Greek, Latin and other languages. Some of these keep their original plural forms, some use an English plural. With these it is probably best to memorize the singular noun with its plural.