

Nouns in English

Plural Nouns

Regular Plurals

end with *s* or *es*.

Add -es to make nouns plural that end with:

- **s**
– **buses**
- **x**
– **taxes**
- **ch**
– **benches**
- **sh**
– **dishes**

Add **-ies** to make nouns plural that **end**
with a **consonant and -y**:

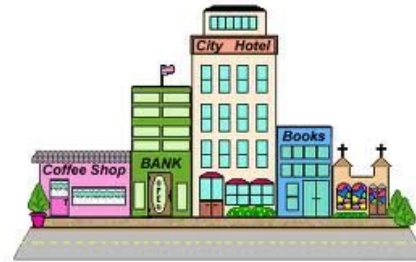
Lady - ladies



Fry - fries



City - cities

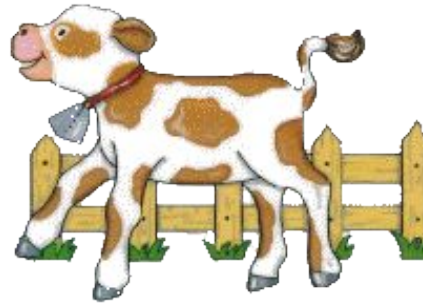


Army - armies



Most nouns that end in **-f** or **-fe** change to **-ves** when made plural:

- Calf - cal**ves**
- Knife – kni**ves**
- Leaf – lea**ves**
- Wolf – wol**ves**
- Wife - wi**ves**



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BUT:

Chief – chiefs

Handkerchief – handkerchief

Roof – roofs

Safe - safes



Nouns that end in -o add -es when made plural.

- **Tomato - tomatoes**
- **Potato – potatoes**
- **Hero -heroes**



BUT:

Piano – pianos

Photo - photos



ends with
-us

Change
-us to -i

cactus -
cacti

nucleus -
nuclei

focus -
foci

ends with
-is

Change
-is to -es

analysis -
analyses
crisis -
crises
thesis -
theses

ends with -on

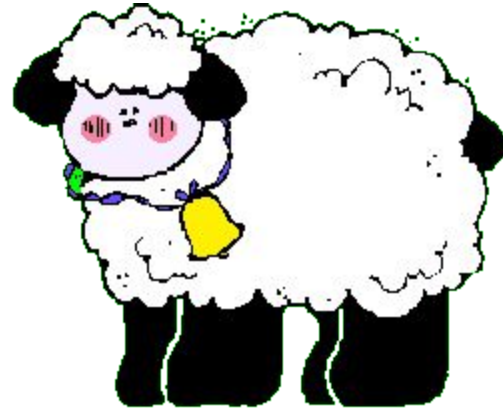
Change -on
to -a

phenomenon
- phenomena
criterion -
criteria

IRREGULAR PLURALS

Some nouns do not change at all when made plural:

- **Sheep - sheep**
- **Deer – deer**
- **Moose – moose**
- **Trout – trout**

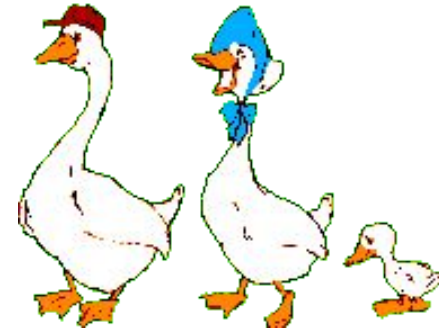


Some nouns become a new word when made plural:

- **Man – men**
- **Woman – women**
- **Foot - feet**
- **Goose – geese**
- **Tooth – teeth**
- **Mouse – mice**
- **Louse - lice**



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Child – children

Ox – oxen

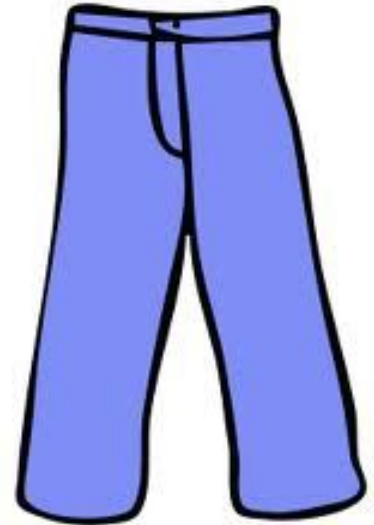


A few nouns have only plural forms:

Scissors



Trousers



Jeans



Spectacles



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Clothes



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A few nouns have only plural forms:

Tongs

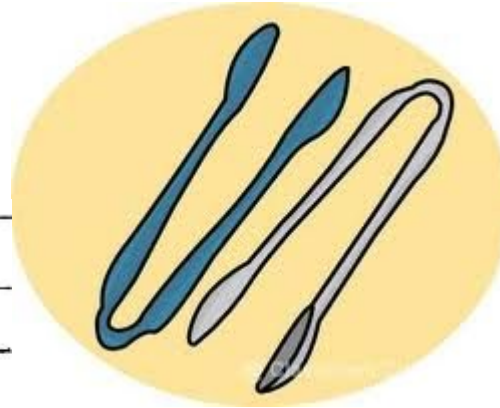
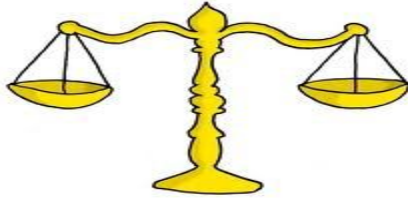
Scales

Savings

Goods

Stairs

Arms



Nouns that have only singular forms:

Money



Fruit



Hair



Twilight



Advice



News



Compound Nouns: the main word has *plural form*

Singular	Plural
billboard	billboards
cupful	cupfuls
campground	campgrounds
maid of honor	maids of honor
attorney-at-law	attorneys-at-law
step-brother	step-brothers
Great-grandma	Great-grandmas

Possessive Case

SINGULAR:

man – man's, child- child's

PLURAL:

**chairs – chairs', rooms – rooms',
men - men's, women – women's**

**Possessive Case of Compounds and Phrases –
's is added to the whole phrase**

Mother-in-law – mother-in-law's

Maid of honor – maid of honor's

Attorney-at-law - attorney-at-law's

Noun Suffixes

Denoting people

People in a certain occupation or activity:

-er (-or): adviser, baker, butcher, driver, teacher, reader, protector, director, earner / actor, advisor, ancestor, animator, bachelor, counselor, navigator, tailor, vendor, warrior

-eer: engineer, mountaineer, volunteer, domineer, auctioneer, profiteer, racketeer

Denoting people in a certain activity:

- ster**: gangster, gamester, trickster, prankster, funster
- ee**: addressee, grantee, employee, attendee, refugee, escapee, returnee
- ant**: servant, inhabitant, aspirant, immigrant

Denoting females/ instruments:

-ess: duchess, countess, princess, empress,
waitress, stewardess, hostess,

-ina, ine: heroine, czarina, concertina,

Small things:

-let = small, unimportant: piglet, owlet, booklet

-ling = small: duckling, gosling, princeling

-ette = small, imitation: cigarette, kitchenette,
diskette

State/ activity:

-ing: bathing, reading, cooking, writing, speaking

-tion / **-sion**: depression, revolution, oppression,
organization

-ment: movement, agreement, development,
pavement

-al: arrival, approval, festival, portal

State/ status:

-hood: childhood, brotherhood, motherhood, neighborhood, boyhood, parenthood, manhood

-ness: happiness, freshness, attentiveness, fastness, aggressiveness, correctness, awareness

-ity: rapidity, stupidity, aridity

Amount:

-ful: handful, mouthful, spoonful, bowlful

-age: coverage, courage, percentage,

Ideas/ conditions:

-ism = doctrine: communism, capitalism, racism

-ship = condition: dictatorship

Ideas/ followers:

-ist = follower: communist, capitalist, racist

-an = follower, born in: republican, American,
Asian

-ite = follower, born in: islamite, kyivite.