

Making Singular Nouns Plural

You will remember that we have learned that the word **singular** means just one of something, for example a house or a dog.

The word **plural** means more than one of something, for example houses or dogs.

Most singular nouns form the plural by adding -s.

singular form

plural form

boat

boats

car

cars

house

houses

tree

trees

Try saying 'buss', 'boxs' or 'wishes' and you will see why nouns which end in a hissing sound use -es in the plural!

Singular nouns ending in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch' or 'sh' form the plural by adding -es.

singular form

plural form

bus

buses

box

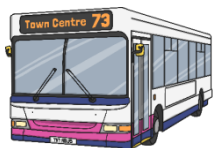
boxes

church


churches

wish

wishes



Singular nouns ending in a consonant and the letter 'y' form the plural by dropping the 'y' and adding -ies.

	singular form	plural form
	penny	pennies
	baby	babies
	daisy	daisies
	spy	spies

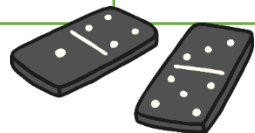
Singular nouns ending in a vowel and the letter 'y' form the plural by simply adding -s.





	singular form	plural form
	boy	boys
	toy	toys
	valley	valleys
	tray	trays

Remember there are some exceptions to the rule...
singular nouns ending in 'o'
form the plural by adding
-s.


singular form	plural form
potato	potatoes
hero	heroes
tomato	tomatoes
echo	echoes
torpedo	torpedoes
domino	dominoes



singular form	plural form
piano 	pianos
solo	solos
photo 	photos
memo	memos
kilo	kilos
video	videos

But some singular nouns ending in 'o' form the plural by adding -es!

Nouns that end in 'f' or 'fe' usually form the plural by dropping the 'f' and adding -ves.



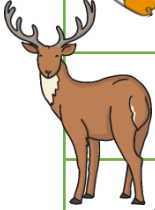
singular form	plural form
 thief	thieves
knife	knives
wife	wives
elf	elves
leaf	leaves





singular form	plural form
cliff	cliffs
earmuff	earmuffs
foodstuff	foodstuffs
cuff	cuffs
playoff	playoffs
roof	roofs

However, some nouns that end in 'f' form the plural by simply adding -s.

Some tricky nouns are the same in the singular and the plural forms.

singular form	plural form
 sheep	sheep
 fish	fish
 deer	deer
aircraft	aircraft
species	species

plural form	
	trousers
	glasses
	scissors 
	jeans

Pairs of things usually only have a plural form.

What is the plural form of 'fox' ?

Write both the singular and plural in your books

A) foxs

B) foxies

C) foxes

D) foxys

What is the plural form of 'lady' ?

A) ladys

B) ladeys

C) ladyes

D) ladies

What is the plural form of 'cuff' ?

A) cuffes

C) cuves



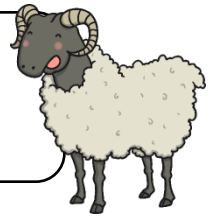
B) cuff

D) cuffs

What is the plural form of 'sheep' ?

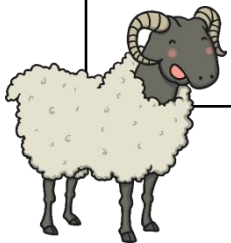
A) sheeps

B) sheepes



C) sheep

D) sheepies



Challenge

Choose some of your sets of words and put into two sentences.

E.g.

The leaf was crisp and brown.

The leaves had fallen off of the tree, leaving it bare.