

Regular & Irregular Plurals

Language focus

Many nouns are countable nouns. We can count them. Countable nouns have two forms: singular and plural.

- We use a singular noun to talk about one person, animal, thing or place.
e.g. I have a cat.
- We use a plural noun to talk about more than one person, animal, thing or place.
e.g. I have two cats

	Singular noun	Plural noun
1. Add '-s' to most nouns.	cap	caps
2. Add '-es' to nouns ending in '-s', '-x', '-z', '-ch', and '-sh'	bus	buses
3. Add '-s' to nouns ending in vowel and '-y'.	key	keys
4. Change '-y' into '-ies' for nouns ending in consonant and '-y'.	baby	babies
5. Change '-f' or '-fe' to '-ves' for some* nouns ending in '-f' or '-fe'.	leaf	leaves
6. Add '-es' to some* nouns ending in '-o'.	tomato	tomatoes
7. There are no spelling rules for irregular nouns.	child	children
	feet	foot

*There are some exceptions to the nouns ending in '-f', '-fe' and '-o'.

e.g. roofs, photos

- There are no spelling rules for irregular nouns.

Singular	Plural
a man	men
a woman	women
a foot	feet
a tooth	teeth
a goose	geese
a fish	fish
a deer	deer
a sheep	sheep
a mouse	mice
a child	children

A. Choose the correct plural forms.

1. The (wolfs / wolves) live in the cave.
2. I brush my (tooth / teeth) every morning.
3. Mum puts her (keys / keies) into her handbag.
4. There are fifteen (matchs / matches) in the box.
5. Mrs. Lam is buying some (strawberries / strawberries).
6. The (sheep / sheeps) are running in the farm.
7. There are ten (tomatos / tomatoes) in the basket.
8. Mr. Lam and Mr. Tam are (fireman / firemen).
9. There are twenty (bookshelbs / bookshelves) in the library.
10. Mr. Chan has five blue (tiees / ties).
11. These are the children's (toyes / toys).
12. The (geoses / geese) are swimming in the pond.

B. Fill in the blanks with plural form of the words.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. a church | three _____ |
| 2. a shoe | ten _____ |
| 3. a bench | four _____ |
| 4. a box | five _____ |
| 5. a potato | three _____ |
| 6. a dish | two _____ |

7. a bus
8. a horse
9. a boy
10. a baby
11. a monkey
12. a lady
13. a cherry
14. a donkey
15. a leaf
16. a fork
17. a knife
18. a thief

six _____

two _____

three _____

five _____

four _____

ten _____

seven _____

two _____

three _____

two _____

four _____

ten _____

C. Change the following sentences into plural.

e.g. He is a tall man.

They are tall men.

1. She is a policewoman.

2. It is a brown chair.

3. This is a beautiful dress.

4. That is a bee.

5. It is a blue hat.

6. This is a green leaf.

7 He is a smart boy.

8. That is a clean dish.

9. The deer is running fast.

10. The fish is swimming in the sea.

