

Number of Nouns

Countable nouns can be counted, when the countable noun is one, we call it singular number. When a countable noun means 'more than one' we call it plural number.

To make plural we generally need suffixes. The common plural suffixes are -----

-s

-es

-ies

-ves

Some rules for making plural from singular-----

- Most of the countable nouns have the regular-s plural which is formed by adding an **s** to the singular.
Book-books tree-trees
- Nouns ending in **-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -z, -x** are changed into plural by adding **-es**
Bus-buses box-boxes watch-watches
Class-classes brush-brushes topaz-topazes
- If the last letter of a word is **-o** and the letter **before -o is a consonant**, the plural is made by adding **-es**.
Tomato-tomatoes hero-heroes
- Some technical and scientific words borrowed from Latin and other foreign languages end with **-o** and have consonant before them but the plural is made by adding only **-s**.
Photo-photos zero-zeros
- Words ending in **-o** and a **vowel before -o** are changed into plural by adding only **-s**
Radio-radios cuckoo-cuckoos
- A few common words ending with **-o** can have plural in **-s or -es**
Buffalo-buffalos/buffaloes mosquito-mosquitos/mosquitoes
- If the singular ends in **consonant+y** the plural is normally formed by changing the **y to i** and then adding **-es**
Baby-babies story-stories
- If the singular noun ends in **vowel+y** the plural is made by adding **-s**.
Key-keys monkey-monkeys
- Some nouns ending in **-f or fe** are made plural by adding **-ves** after the **removal of -f or -fe**.
Calf-calves knife-knives
- Some nouns ending in **-f, -fe, -ff, -oof, -ief, -eef, -off, -erf**, are made plural by adding only **s**.
Safe-safes roof-roofs chief-chiefs

- Some words ending in **-f** may take both **-s** and **-ves**
Staff-staff**s**/stave**s** hoof-hoof**s**/hoov**es**
- Some plurals are made by adding **-en**
Child-children ox-oxen
- Some words are made plural by the internal change of vowels.
Ma**n**-me**n** too**th**-tee**th**
- Compound nouns generally form plural by making the plural of the principal word. Some of them may take the ending in the last unimportant part.
Brother – in – law--- brothers –in-law
Maid-servant----maid-servants
- Some nouns are singular in forms but used as plural.
People, cattle, public, police
- Some nouns denoting a tool, instrument or article or dress consisting of two equal parts, are always plural.
Scissors, trousers, glasses,
- Some nouns end in-s but these are singular in number.
News, physics, rickets etc.