

# Regular & Irregular Plural Nouns

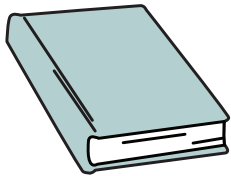
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# 1 Grammar Notes

## A. Introduction

A noun is a person, place, or thing.

A **singular** noun is **1** person, place, or thing.



**a book**



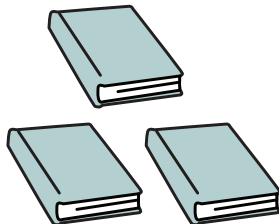
**an apple**



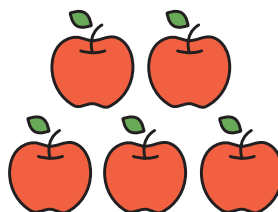
**1 tree**

A **plural** noun is **2 or more** people, places, or things.

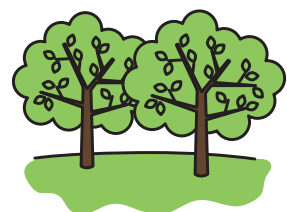
In English, the plural is usually formed by adding **-s** to a noun.



**books**



**apples**



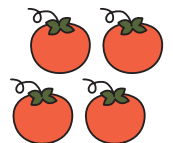
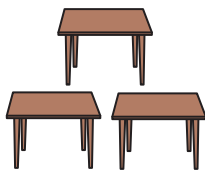
**2 trees**

## 1 Grammar Notes cont.

### B. Regular Plural Nouns

Let's take a closer look at how to form **regular** plural nouns in English.

Nouns	Rule	Singular	Plural
most nouns	add -s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>banana</li> <li>flower</li> <li>toy</li> <li>dog</li> <li>table</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bananas</li> <li>flowers</li> <li>toys</li> <li>dogs</li> <li>tables</li> </ul>
nouns ending in consonant + -y	change -y to -i and add -es	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>candy</li> <li>butterfly</li> <li>puppy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>candies</li> <li>butterflies</li> <li>puppies</li> </ul>
nouns ending in -s, -z, -x, -ch, -sh	add -es	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>kiss</li> <li>waltz</li> <li>box</li> <li>watch</li> <li>dish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>kisses</li> <li>waltzes</li> <li>boxes</li> <li>watches</li> <li>dishes</li> </ul>
nouns ending in -o	add -es	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>potato</li> <li>tomato</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>potatoes</li> <li>tomatoes</li> </ul>

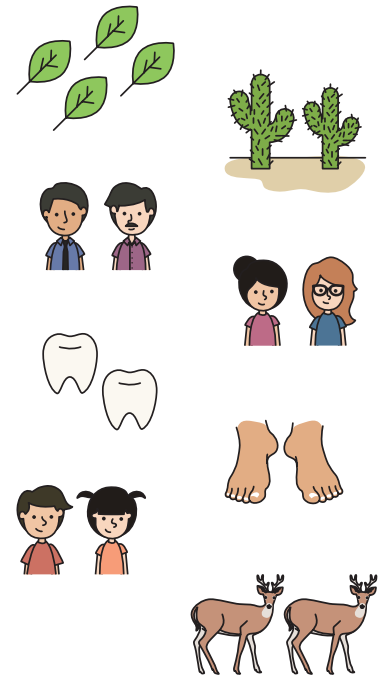


## 1 Grammar Notes cont.

### C. Irregular Plural Nouns

Some nouns in English have **irregular plural forms**. This means we **can't add -s**. Instead, there's a change to the ending or middle of a word. Let's take a closer look at how to form **irregular plural nouns** in English.

Nouns	Rule	Singular	Plural
nouns ending in -f	change -f to -v and add -es	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wolf</li> <li>leaf</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>wolves</li> <li>leaves</li> </ul>
nouns ending in -fe	change -fe to -ve and add -s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>knife</li> <li>life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>knives</li> <li>lives</li> </ul>
nouns ending in -us	change -us to -i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cactus</li> <li>syllabus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cacti</li> <li>syllabi</li> </ul>
nouns with a middle -a-	change -a- to -e-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>man</li> <li>woman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>men</li> <li>women</li> </ul>
nouns with a middle -oo-	change -oo- to -ee-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tooth</li> <li>foot</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>teeth</li> <li>feet</li> </ul>
nouns with a middle -ou-	change -ou- to -i- and change -s- to -c-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mouse</li> <li>louse</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mice</li> <li>lice</li> </ul>
word change		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>child</li> <li>person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>children</li> <li>people</li> </ul>
no change		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>deer</li> <li>fish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>deer</li> <li>fish</li> </ul>



#### Note:

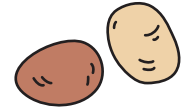
Not all nouns with the middle vowels -a-, -oo-, and -ou- follow the irregular plural rules. Some nouns take a regular -s ending, such as:

- car → cars
- booth → booths
- house → houses

## 2 Regular Plurals

Write the regular plural form of each noun in brackets.

Ex My favorite meal is steak and potatoes .  
(potato)

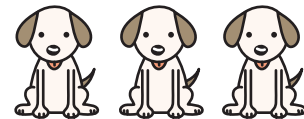


1 She got a lot of new \_\_\_\_\_ for her birthday.  
(toy)

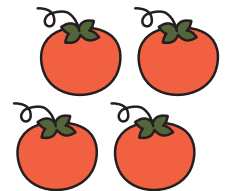


2 How many \_\_\_\_\_ are in that bowl?  
(candy)

3 I own 3 \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(watch)



4 How many \_\_\_\_\_ do we need at the table?  
(chair)

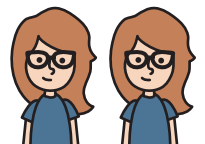


5 They have 3 \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(dog)

6 He grows \_\_\_\_\_ in his garden.  
(tomato)



7 There are 4 \_\_\_\_\_ on the bed.  
(pillow)



8 Do you have 2 \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
(sister)

9 We want to buy some \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(T-shirt)



# 3 Irregular Plurals

Write the irregular plural form of each noun in brackets.

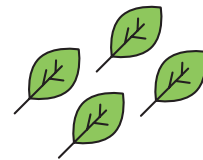
Ex There are 5 women on the bus.  
(woman)



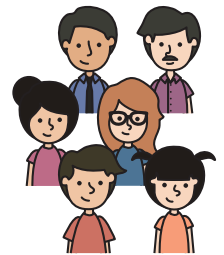
1 That man has smelly \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(foot)



2 How many \_\_\_\_\_ do they have?  
(child)



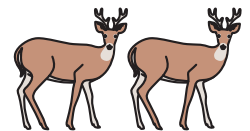
3 Are you scared of \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
(mouse)



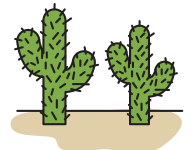
4 I spent all afternoon raking the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(leaf)

5 The \_\_\_\_\_ in that family all have brown hair.  
(man)

6 There are many \_\_\_\_\_ at the beach today.  
(person)



7 Be careful with those \_\_\_\_\_ . They are very sharp.  
(knife)



8 Look at all the \_\_\_\_\_ in the park!  
(deer)

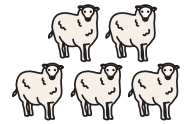
9 She loves the \_\_\_\_\_ that grow along the desert highway.  
(cactus)

## 4 Find the Error

Find one error in each sentence.

Rewrite the sentences with the correct plural forms.

- 1 There are a lot of sheeps in that field.



- 2 Persons say that this class is difficult.

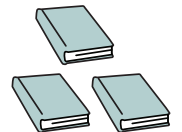


- 3 Do you do the dishes every night?



- 4 There are 6 rose in that bouquet.

- 5 I have a lot of bookes in my bookshelf.



- 6 They said they have happy life.

- 7 She brushes her tooth every morning.



- 8 We like caching butterflies in the summer.

- 9 He became friends with a pack of wolfs in that movie.

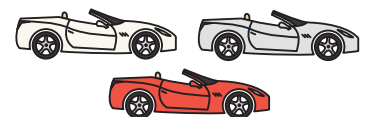
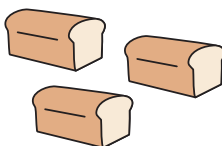


- 10 There were many man and women at the concert.

## 5 Multiple-Choice

Circle the correct plural form.

- Ex** We have 2 dogs and 3 \_\_\_\_\_ at our house.  
 a) cat                      c) cate  
 b) cates                  **d) cats**
- 1** I packed my old clothes into \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) box                      c) boxes  
 b) boxs                  d) boxses
- 2** The police didn't catch the 2 \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a) thief                    c) thieve  
 b) thieves                d) thieves
- 3** She brought 3 \_\_\_\_\_ of bread to make sandwiches for the picnic.  
 a) loaves                  c) loafs  
 b) loafes                  d) loave
- 4** My grandma gives me a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ when she comes to visit.  
 a) kisess                  c) kiss  
 b) kises                   d) kisses
- 5** My cat caught many \_\_\_\_\_ last year.  
 a) mouses                c) mouse  
 b) mices                  d) mice
- 6** My dad always buys my mom \_\_\_\_\_ for her birthday.  
 a) floweres               c) flowers  
 b) flowere                d) flower
- 7** Do you like to eat \_\_\_\_\_ that are mashed or roasted?  
 a) potatoe                c) potatos  
 b) potatoes               d) potato
- 8** There are a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ in the park.  
 a) goose                   c) geoses  
 b) geese                   d) geeses
- 9** My neighbors have 3 \_\_\_\_\_ in the driveway.  
 a) cars                    c) cares  
 b) care                    d) car





# 6 Interview Your Partner

Ask your partner these questions, and write his or her answers on the lines below. Pay attention to plural noun forms when you answer your partner's questions.

- 1 How many people are in your family?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What are your hobbies?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Do you have any pets?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 What are 2 of your favorite movies?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 What are some of your favorite books?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Are you afraid of mice?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Do you like to eat potatoes? How about tomatoes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Do you brush your teeth twice a day?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Do you wash the dishes after dinner?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Do you usually get a lot of toys on your birthday?  
\_\_\_\_\_

