

Plural Formation

Adding –s and –es to

Rules	singular	plural
The plural suffix is pronounced as [s] when added to a noun ending in p, t, k, th, f.	Cap cat book month roof	Caps cats books months roofs
it is pronounced [z] when added to a word ending in b, d, g, m, n, r, v,	Bird dog car plane town	Birds Dogs Cars Planes towns
-es is added to a word ending in the sounds s, z, sh, ch, x, dg, and is pronounced [ɪz]:	bus glass brush match bridge rose box	Buses Glasses Brushes Matches Bridges Roses Boxes

Invariable nouns ending in –s or –es

Rule	Singular	Plural
Some nouns end in –s have no singular form	News	News
Some nouns end in –ies have no singular form		Series species
Some diseases	Measles Mumps Rickets Shingles	
Subject names ending in –s	Linguistics Phonetics Politics Economics Mathematics	
Some games	Billiards Dominoes	

	Checkers Bowls	
Some proper nouns	Algiers Brussels Flanders Naples Wales The United States The United Nations	
Tools	Billows Binoculars Pincers Pliers Scales Scissors Shears Tongs Tweezers Glasses Spectacles Braces	
Articles of dress	Trousers Pants Shorts Pyjamas Suspenders Sneakers Tights	

Nouns ending in y

Rule	Singular	Plural
singular nouns ending in -y preceded by a consonant take -ies:	sky spy story	Story Spies Stories
nouns ending in -y preceded by a vowel take the plural suffix /-s/	boy bay	Boys bays

Nouns ending in o

Rule	Singular	Plural
most words that end in -o take the -es suffix:	negro potato	Negroes potatoes
some words that end in -o take the -s form	kilo photo piano	Kilos Photos Pianos pianos owels: arpet, l carpet, -
all nouns ending in -o preceded by a vowel take only the -s form	studio radio	studios radios
some take the suffix /-os/ or /-oes/	archipelago buffalo cargo halo tornado volcano commando	

Nouns ending in f

Rule	Singular	Plural	
singular nouns ending in -f have a regular plural e.g.:	Belief Chief Roof	beliefs chiefs roofs	
Some form their plural by voicing of the last consonant of the stem and adding the plural suffix -es	Wife Leaf Half Calf	wives leaves halves	
Some have both regular and voiced plurals	Dwarf hoof scarf	Dwarves hooves scarves	Dwarfs hoofs scarfs

Changing the vowel (Mutation)

Rule	Singular	Plural
some common nouns form their plural by mutation (internal change of vowel)	Foot Tooth Goose Man	feet teeth geese men
The suffix /-en/ is used in:	Ox Child	oxen children

Foreign words (Words from Latin and Greek)

Rule	Singular	Plural
Singular loan words from other languages mostly Latin take the following plural suffixes: singular nouns ending in -us take the plural suffix -i	stimulus alumnus locus focus	stimuli alumni loci foci
Singular nouns ending in -a take the plural suffix -ae	alga larva nebula	algae larvae nebulae
Singular nouns ending in -um take the plural suffix -a	curriculum bacterium stratum	curricula bacteria strata
Singular nouns ending in -ex, -ix take the plural suffix -ices	index appendix matrix	indices appendices matrices
singular nouns ending in -is take the plural suffix -es	analysis hypothesis parenthesis thesis	analyses hypotheses parentheses theses
singular nouns ending in -on take the plural suffix -a	criterion phenomenon	criteria phenomena
singular nouns ending in -eau take the plural suffix -eaux	bureau plateau	bureaux plateaux

Latin Words with regular plural

Rule	Singular	Regular Plural	Latin Plural
Foreign plurals often occur along with regular plurals. The foreign plural is commoner in technical usage, whereas the -s plural is more natural in everyday language.	antenna appendix aquarium cactus criterion curriculum	antennas appendixes aquariums cactuses criteria curriculums	antennae acquaria appendices cactui criteria curricula

Latin Words with regular plural

Rule	Singular	Plural
Some loan words have a regular plural	Album Area	Albums Areas