

Plural Forms

When There's More Than One

1. Regular Plural Form

a) To make most plural nouns, add –s

One bird two birds

One street two streets

One rose two roses

b) Add –es

to nouns ending in –sh, –ch, –ss, and –x

One dish two dishes

One match two matches

One class two classes One box two boxes

c) If a noun ends in a consonant +

–y, change the y to i and add –es, as in, if –y is preceded by a vowel, add only –s, as in.

One baby two babies

One city two cities

One toy two toys

One key two keys

2. Irregular Plural Form

a) If a noun ends in –fe or –f, change the ending to –ves.

(exceptions: beliefs, chiefs, roofs, cuffs, cliffs.)

One knife two knives

One shelf two shelves

b) The plural form of nouns that end in –o is sometimes –oes and sometimes –os.

One tomato two tomatoes

One zoo two zoos One zero

two zeroes/zeros

c) There is some irregular plural form that should be memorized.

A man two men

A woman five women

A tooth four teeth

A foot six feet

A goose two geese

A mouse five mice

A louse four lice

A child two children

An ox two oxen

d) Add -s to compound nouns

A looker-on two lookers-on

A passer-by four passers-by

e) The plural form of some nouns is the same as the singular form.

One sheep two sheep

One deer five deer

f) There are some plural nouns but seen singular. It does not have singular form. Cattle, People, etc. **g) The names for field of science are always in plural form, although a means of singular.** Politics, ethics, physics, metaphysics, mathematics, etc

. h) The names for field of science are always in plural form, although a means of singular. The plural form is in a pair. Shoes a pair of shoes Sandals a pair of sandals Trousers a pair of trousers Scissors a pair of scissors.

Briefly, Plural nouns refer to more than one person, place, or thing. Most are regular, but some are irregular and very common in tourism.

A. Regular Plurals (Add -s or -es)

❖ **Add -s:**

· tourist → tourists ("The tourists took many photos.")

· hotel → hotels ("All the hotels are fully booked.")

· beach → beaches

- souvenir → souvenirs

❖ **Add -es** (for nouns ending in -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x):

- bus → buses ("We transferred between buses at the station.")
- beach → beaches ("We visited three different beaches.")
- pass → passes ("Our museum passes are valid for a week.")

Notice: Add -s to most words to make them plural, but add -es to words that end in -s, -sh, -ch, -x, or -z. For verbs in the present tense, add -s for most verbs, but add -es for verbs ending in -o, -ch, -sh, -x, or -s.

B. Irregular Plurals (You Have to Memorize These!)

These are very common and important to get right.

· **Change the Vowel or Word:**

- **man → men / woman → women** ("The men and women on the tour were from different countries.")

- **child → children** ("Are there activities for children?")

- **person → people** ("How many people are in your group?")

· **Nouns that stay the same:**

- **fish → fish** ("We saw many colorful fish while snorkeling.")

- **sheep → sheep** ("The hills were dotted with sheep.")

· **Nouns ending in -f or -fe (change to -ves):**

- **knife → knives** (Important for airport security! "Please pack all knives in your checked luggage.")

- **shelf → shelves** ("The souvenir shelves were full.")

summary of rules and exceptions

Here's a quick summary of the main rules and exceptions for spelling plurals:

- Add -s to most singular nouns to make them plural.
- Add -es to words ending in -s, -x, -z, -ch, or -sh.
- For words ending in -y, change the -y to -ies if it's preceded by a consonant.
- Some words change vowels in the plural form (e.g., *man* becomes *men*).
- Some plurals are irregular and don't follow the standard rules (e.g., *child* becomes *children*).
- Some words are the same in both singular and plural forms (e.g., *sheep*).