**Plural noun rules**

There are many plural noun rules, and because we use nouns so frequently when writing, it’s important to know all of them! The correct [spelling of plurals](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/spelling-plurals-with-s-es/) usually depends on what letter the singular noun ends in.

**1** To make regular nouns plural, add –*s* to the end.

*cat*– *cats*

*house* – *houses*

**2** If the singular noun ends in –*s*, –*ss*, –*sh*, –*ch*, –*x*, or –*z*, add *-es* to the end to make it plural.

*bus* – *buses*

*truss* – *trusses*

*marsh* – *marshes*

*lunch* – *lunches*

*tax* – *taxes*

*blitz* – *blitzes*

**3** In some cases, singular nouns ending in –*s* or –*z* require that you double the –*s* or –*z* prior to adding the –*es* for pluralization.

*class* – *classes*

*fez* – *fezzes*

**4** If the noun ends with –*f* or –*fe*, the *f* or –*fe*are often changed to –*ve* before adding the –*s* to form the plural version.

*wife* – *wives*

*wolf*– *wolves*

Exceptions:

*roof* – *roofs*

*belief* – *beliefs*

*chef* – *chefs*

*chief* – *chiefs*

**5** If a singular noun ends in –*y* and the letter before the –*y* is a consonant, change the ending to –*ies* to make the noun plural.

*city* – *cities*

*puppy*– *puppies*

**6** If the singular noun ends in –*y* and the letter before the –*y* is a vowel, simply add an –*s* to make it plural.

*ray* – *rays*

*boy* – *boys*

**7** If the singular noun ends in –*o*, add –*es* to make it plural.

*potato* – *potatoes*

*tomato* – *tomatoes*

Plural noun exceptions

*photo* – *photos*

*piano* – *pianos*

*halo* – *halos*

*gas* – *gases* (*gasses* is also acceptable but less common)

With the unique word *volcano*, you can apply the standard pluralization for words that end in –*o* or not. It’s your choice! Both of the following are correct:

*volcanoes*

*volcanos*

**8** If the singular noun ends in –*us*, the plural ending is frequently –*i*.

*cactus* – *cacti*

*focus* – *foci*

**9** If the singular noun ends in –*is*, the plural ending is –*es*.

*analysis* – *analyses*

*ellipsis* – *ellipses*

**10** If the singular noun ends in –*on*, the plural ending is –*a*.

*phenomenon* – *phenomena*

*criterion* – *criteria*

**11** Some nouns don’t change at all when they’re pluralized.

*sheep* – *sheep*

*series* – *series*

*species* – *species*

*deer* – *deer*

You need to see these nouns in context to identify them as singular or plural. Consider the following sentence:

Mark caught one fish, but I caught three fish.

However, when it comes to fish, things can get[a little complicated](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/fish-fishes/).

Plural noun rules for irregular nouns

Irregular nouns follow no specific rules, so it’s best to memorize these or look up the proper pluralization in the dictionary.

*child* – *children*

*goose* – *geese*

*man* – *men*

*woman* – *women*

*tooth* – *teeth*

*foot* – *feet*

*mouse* – *mice*

*person* – *people*

**Resources:**

[**https://www.grammarly.com/blog/plural-nouns/**](https://www.grammarly.com/blog/plural-nouns/)

**English grammar **

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