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## Quick and Handy Grammar Review: Singular and Plural Nouns

### Spelling Rules for Plural Nouns

**1. For most nouns, add –s to the singular noun.**

desk/desks    toy/toys    car/cars    book/books    voice/voices    cat/cats

**2. For nouns ending in –s, –z, –sh, or –ch, add –es to the singular noun.**

class/classes    quiz/quizzes    wish/wishes    watch/watches    bus/buses    mass/masses

**3. For nouns ending in –f, change –f to –v and add –es.**

wife/wives    leaf/leaves    scarf/scarves    knife/knives    loaf/loaves

(Note: There are several exceptions to this rule: *beliefs, roofs, cliffs, cuffs, chiefs*)

**4. For nouns ending in a consonant + y, change the –y to –i and add –es.**

story/stories    fry/fries    bully/bullies    pony/ponies    spy/spies

**5. For nouns ending in a vowel + y, just add –s.**

delay/delays    day/days    toy/toys    survey/surveys    play/plays

**6. Some nouns ending in –o form their plural by adding –es. Others just add –s.**

tomato/tomatoes    hero/heroes    potato/potatoes    zoo/zoos    zero/zeros

### Irregular Plural Nouns

**1. Several nouns have irregular plural forms:**

child/children    foot/feet    goose/geese    louse/lice    man/men  
 woman/women    mouse/mice    ox/oxen    person/people    tooth/teeth

**2. A few nouns, mostly of Latin origin, have irregular plural forms:**

<i>us / i</i>	<i>sis / ses</i>	parenthesis/parentheses	<i>um, on / a</i>
alumnus/alumni	analysis/analyses	thesis/theses	bacterium/bacteria
cactus/cacti	axis/axes		criterion/criteria
focus/foci	crisis/crises	<i>ix / ices</i>	datum/data
nucleus/nuclei	diagnosis/diagnoses	appendix/appendices	memorandum/memoranda
stimulus/stimuli	oasis/oases	index/indices	phenomenon/phenomena

**3. Several nouns do not change in the plural.**

deer/deer    fish/fish    offspring/offspring    sheep/sheep    species/species

### Pronunciation of Final –s and –es for Plural Nouns

Noun Ending Sound	Plural Pronunciation	Examples
voiceless: /f/, /k/, /p/, /t/, /θ/	/s/	cuffs, books, cups, boats, months
voiced: /b/, /d/, /g/, /l/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /r/, /ð/, /v/, all vowel sounds	/z/	cabs, beds, dogs, jewels, combs, pens, things, years, paths, knives, agendas
/s/, /z/, /dʒ/, /ʒ/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/	/ɪz/	faces, sizes, pages, garages, dishes, watches

**Exercise 1:**

*Write the plural of the following nouns.*

1. colony \_\_\_\_\_

2. dictionary \_\_\_\_\_

3. fairy \_\_\_\_\_

4. donkey \_\_\_\_\_

5. berry \_\_\_\_\_

6. artery \_\_\_\_\_

7. Monday \_\_\_\_\_

8. similarity \_\_\_\_\_

9. holiday \_\_\_\_\_

10. essay \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2:**

*Write the plural of the following nouns.*

1. army \_\_\_\_\_

2. quarry \_\_\_\_\_

3. navy \_\_\_\_\_

4. query \_\_\_\_\_

5. raspberry \_\_\_\_\_

6. party \_\_\_\_\_

7. Friday \_\_\_\_\_

8. city \_\_\_\_\_

9. decoy \_\_\_\_\_

10. monkey \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 3:**

Write the plural of each noun. Then say the plural noun aloud. Check the correct pronunciation box for each one.

Singular	Plural	/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
1. cup				
2. shoe				
3. page				
4. disk				
5. teacher				
6. film				
7. month				
8. Monday				
9. class				
10. minute				

**Exercise 4:**

Write the plural of each noun. Then say the plural noun aloud. Check the correct pronunciation box for each one.

Singular	Plural	/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
1. mass				
2. biscuit				
3. gas				
4. knife				
5. coat				
6. dog				
7. dash				
8. delay				
9. bridge				
10. song				

**Exercise 5:**

*Form the plural of the following nouns.*

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. one volcano, two _____    | 2. one zoo, two _____     |
| 3. one city, two _____       | 4. one species, two _____ |
| 5. one sheep, two _____      | 6. one louse, two _____   |
| 7. one wolf, two _____       | 8. one thief, two _____   |
| 9. one child, two _____      | 10. one witch, two _____  |
| 11. one mouse, two _____     | 12. one foot, two _____   |
| 13. one man, two _____       | 14. one cactus, two _____ |
| 15. one bacterium, two _____ |                           |

**Exercise 6:**

*Form the plural of the following nouns.*

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. one woman, two _____     | 2. one roof, two _____       |
| 3. one offspring, two _____ | 4. one smile, two _____      |
| 5. one fish, two _____      | 6. one stitch, two _____     |
| 7. one key, two _____       | 8. one parent, two _____     |
| 9. one ox, two _____        | 10. one baby, two _____      |
| 11. one library, two _____  | 12. one half, two _____      |
| 13. one alumnus, two _____  | 14. one criterion, two _____ |
| 15. one deer, two _____     |                              |

**Exercise 7:**

Form the plural of the following nouns.

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. one hero, two _____        | 2. one survey, two _____  |
| 3. one shelf, two _____       | 4. one cliff, two _____   |
| 5. one oasis, two _____       | 6. one swatch, two _____  |
| 7. one tomato, two _____      | 8. one belief, two _____  |
| 9. one stimulus, two _____    | 10. one monkey, two _____ |
| 11. one play, two _____       | 12. one calf, two _____   |
| 13. one memorandum, two _____ | 14. one delay, two _____  |
| 15. one focus, two _____      |                           |

**Exercise 8:**

Fill in the blanks. Use the plural form of the nouns in the list. Use each word only once.

*calf*      *deer*      *baby*      *child*      *man*  
*fish*      *diagnosis*      *sheep*      *radio*      *knife*

1. Baby cows are called \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is dangerous to play with very sharp \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Mrs. Ng has three boys and three girls, all in all six \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Mr. Winchester is a collector of old \_\_\_\_\_. He loves to listen to them.
5. I saw three \_\_\_\_\_ trying to cross the highway. They should be in the woods.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ are animals that produce wool. They also give milk.
7. The doctor made two \_\_\_\_\_ after analyzing the patient for two hours.
8. Rob says that he needs three strong \_\_\_\_\_ to help him carry the refrigerator upstairs.
9. Rosa is a very talented outdoors person. Yesterday, she caught six \_\_\_\_\_ in the river.
10. Fourteen \_\_\_\_\_ were born yesterday at Pascack Hospital.

**Exercise 9:**

*Correct the mistakes in the following sentences. Write the correct sentences in the blanks.*

1. I saw three bigs oxes near the cliffes.

---

2. There were many bacteriums under the dead tree.

---

3. Womans usually live longer than mens.

---

4. Farmer Johnson has three sheeps and four deers in pens.

---

5. Ms. Lee sent out four memorandums to the alumnis of the college.

---

6. Roberto is more than 6 feets tall, but he is afraid of mouses.

---

7. The little calfs lost their baby tooths.

---

8. There are three zooes in the four citys close to my house.

---

9. We need more knives and forks as well as potatos and tomatos.

---

10. Those peoples are walking like gooses.

---

**Exercise 10:**

*Correct the mistakes in the following sentences. Write the correct sentences in the blanks.*

1. Six childrens in Ms. Thompson's class had head louse yesterday.

---

2. The doctors conducted many analysises before they made their two diagnosi.

---

3. Henrietta's beliefes are very conservative.

---

4. Nancy cut both her foots on two large cactuses.

---

5. George caught six fishes on the trip.

---

6. Are you mens or mouses?

---

7. We cut the oranges in halves and then ate it.

---

8. Rain is a rather rare phenomena in the Sahara region.

---

9. We have many datum concerning the four crisis facing the government.

---

10. Volcanos are very common in Iceland.

---

### Answer Key

#### Exercise 1:

- |             |                 |                 |             |            |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. colonies | 2. dictionaries | 3. fairies      | 4. donkeys  | 5. berries |
| 6. arteries | 7. Mondays      | 8. similarities | 9. holidays | 10. essays |

#### Exercise 2:

- |            |             |           |            |                |
|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| 1. armies  | 2. quarries | 3. navies | 4. queries | 5. raspberries |
| 6. parties | 7. Fridays  | 8. cities | 9. decoys  | 10. monkeys    |

#### Exercise 3:

Singular	Plural	/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
1. cup	cups	X		
2. shoe	shoes		X	
3. page	pages			X
4. disk	disks	X		
5. teacher	teachers		X	
6. film	films		X	
7. month	months	X		
8. Monday	Mondays		X	
9. class	classes			X
10. minute	minutes	X		

#### Exercise 4:

Singular	Plural	/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
1. mass	masses			X
2. biscuit	biscuits	X		
3. gas	gases			X
4. knife	knives		X	
5. coat	coats	X		
6. dog	dogs		X	
7. dash	dashes			X
8. delay	delays		X	
9. bridge	bridges			X
10. song	songs		X	

#### Exercise 5:

- |              |             |           |            |          |           |              |            |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 1. volcanoes | 2. zoos     | 3. cities | 4. species | 5. sheep | 6. lice   | 7. wolves    | 8. thieves |
| 9. children  | 10. witches | 11. mice  | 12. feet   | 13. men  | 14. cacti | 15. bacteria |            |

#### Exercise 6:

- |          |            |               |            |            |              |          |            |
|----------|------------|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------|------------|
| 1. women | 2. roofs   | 3. offspring  | 4. smiles  | 5. fish    | 6. stitches  | 7. keys  | 8. parents |
| 9. oxen  | 10. babies | 11. libraries | 12. halves | 13. alumni | 14. criteria | 15. deer |            |

#### Exercise 7:

- |            |             |            |            |               |             |             |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. heroes  | 2. surveys  | 3. shelves | 4. cliffs  | 5. oases      | 6. swatches | 7. tomatoes | 8. beliefs |
| 9. stimuli | 10. monkeys | 11. plays  | 12. calves | 13. memoranda |             | 14. delays  | 15. foci   |

#### Exercise 9:

- I saw three big **oxen** near the **cliffs**.
- There were many **bacteria** under the dead tree.
- Women** usually live longer than **men**.
- Farmer Johnson has three **sheep** and four **deer** in pens.
- Ms. Lee sent out four **memoranda** to the **alumni** of the college.
- Roberto is more than 6 **feet** tall, but he is afraid of **mice**.
- The little **calves** lost their baby **teeth**.
- There are three **zoos** in the four **cities** close to my house.
- We need more **knives** and forks as well as **potatoes** and **tomatoes**.
- Those **people** are walking like **geese**.

#### Exercise 8:

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. calves    | 2. knives  |
| 3. children  | 4. radios  |
| 5. deer      | 6. Sheep   |
| 7. diagnoses | 8. men     |
| 9. fish      | 10. babies |

#### Exercise 10:

- Six **children** in Ms. Thompson's class had head **lice** yesterday.
- The doctors conducted many **analyses** before they made their two **diagnoses**.
- Henrietta's **beliefs** are very conservative.
- Nancy cut her **feet** on two large **cacti**.
- George caught six **fish** on the trip.
- Are you **men** or **mice**?
- We cut the oranges in **halves** and then ate **them**.
- Rain is a rather rare **phenomenon** in the Sahara region.
- We have many **data** concerning the four **crises** facing the government.
- Volcanoes** are very common in Iceland.