

## Concept of s / ss / sh / ies / ves

We can change the singular number of nouns into the plural number in the following ways:

(i) By adding **-s** to the singular

Girl	-	Girls	Goat	-	Goats
Spoon	-	Spoons	Teacher	-	Teachers

(ii) By adding **-es** to the nouns ending in **-s, -sh, -ch, -ss, -x**

Class	-	Classes	Match	-	Matches
Brush	-	Brushes	Tax	-	Taxes

(iii) Nouns ending in **-y**, preceded by a consonant, form their plural by changing **-y** into **-ies**

Baby	-	Babies	Lady	-	Ladies
Story	-	Stories	City	-	Cities

• But nouns ending in **-y** preceded by a vowel, form their plural by adding only **-s** to the singular

Toy	-	Toys	Day	-	Days
Boy	-	Boys	Ray	-	Rays

(v) By replacing **f/fe** with **-ves**

Calf	-	Calves	Thief	-	Thieves
Shelf	-	Shelves	Wife	-	Wives

• But some nouns ending in **-f** or **-fe** add **-s**

Chief	-	Chiefs	Proof	-	Proofs
Cafe	-	Cafes	Giraffe	-	Giraffes