



Nouns Number

Definition of Number in Nouns

- A Singular Noun refers to one person, place, animal, or thing.

Examples: boy, girl, kite, potato, book, pen

- A Plural Noun refers to more than one person, place, animal, or thing.

Examples: boys, girls, kites, potatoes, books, pens

Rules for Changing Singular to Plural

1. Add “-s” to most nouns

❖ **Examples:**

cat → cats

balloon → balloons

game → games

shoe → shoes

2. Add “-es” to nouns ending in s, ss, sh, ch, x, or o (hissing sounds)

❖ **Examples:**

brush → brushes

watch → watches

box → boxes

tomato → tomatoes

❖ **Exceptions:**

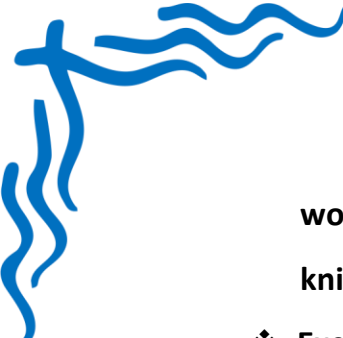
photo → photos

piano → pianos

3. Nouns ending in -f or -fe change to -ves

❖ **Examples:**

leaf → leaves



wolf → wolves

knife → knives

❖ **Exception:**

roof → roofs

4. Nouns ending in a consonant + y → change “y” to “i” and add “-es”

❖ **Examples:**

baby → babies

city → cities

story → stories

5. Nouns ending in vowel + y → just add “-s”

❖ **Examples:**

boy → boys

toy → toys

monkey → monkeys

6. Irregular Plural Nouns (change word entirely or stay the same)

❖ **Examples:**

man → men

woman → women

child → children


foot → feet

tooth → teeth

mouse → mice

deer → deer

sheep → sheep



ox → oxen

Special Compound Noun Plurals

- **mother-in-law** → mothers-in-law
- **passer-by** → passers-by
- **commander-in-chief** → commanders-in-chief

Practice Exercises Overview from Chapter

A. Rewrite sentences changing singular nouns to plural:

❖ **Example:** The woman has a pot.

→ The women have pots.

B. Convert Singular ↔ Plural Forms:

brush → brushes

goose → geese

ox → oxen

man → men

mouse → mice

tooth → teeth

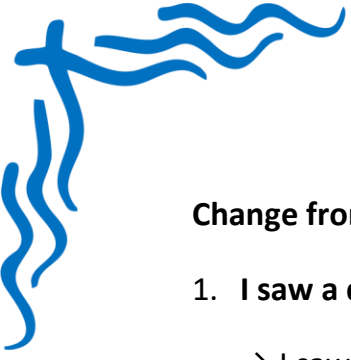
C. Rewrite sentences:

- The child flew the kite.
→ The children flew the kites.

Important Points to Remember

- Plural means more than one.
- Not all nouns follow regular rules — many are irregular.
- Some nouns (e.g., sheep, deer, series) do not change in plural form.

Examples to Practice



Change from Singular to Plural:

1. **I saw a deer in the woods.**

→ I saw deer in the woods.

2. **There is a bird on the tree.**

→ There are birds on the tree.

3. **I caught a fish.**

→ I caught fish.