



Nouns – Number

Introduction

Nouns can be either Singular or Plural, depending on whether they refer to one or more than one person, place, thing, animal, or idea.

Singular Noun

- Refers to one item or being.

Examples: bat, ball, boy, cat, pen

Plural Noun

- Refers to more than one item or being.

Examples: bats, balls, boys, cats, pens

Rules for Forming Plurals

Rule 1: Add –s to most nouns

Examples:

- pen → pens
- bat → bats
- kite → kites

Rule 2: Nouns ending in –s, –ss, –sh, –ch, –x add –es

Examples:

- box → boxes
- wish → wishes
- brush → brushes
- watch → watches

Rule 3: Nouns ending in –y after a consonant → change –y to –ies

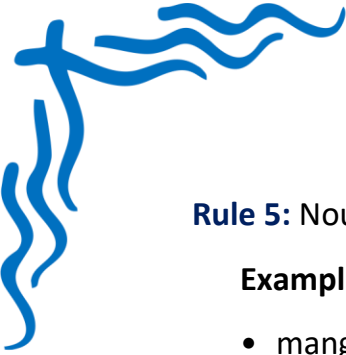
Examples:

- city → cities
- baby → babies
- story → stories

Rule 4: Nouns ending in –y after a vowel → just add –s

Examples:

- toy → toys
- boy → boys
- key → keys



Rule 5: Nouns ending in -o after a consonant → add -es

Examples:

- mango → mangoes
- hero → heroes
- mosquito → mosquitoes

Exceptions (add only -s):

- kilo → kilos, piano → pianos, dynamo → dynamos

Rule 6: Nouns ending in -f or -fe → change to -ves

Examples:

- knife → knives
- leaf → leaves
- life → lives

Exceptions (add -s):

- roof → roofs, chief → chiefs, proof → proofs

Rule 7: Some nouns change internal vowels

Examples:

- tooth → teeth
- foot → feet
- mouse → mice
- man → men
- goose → geese

Rule 8: Add -en to form plural

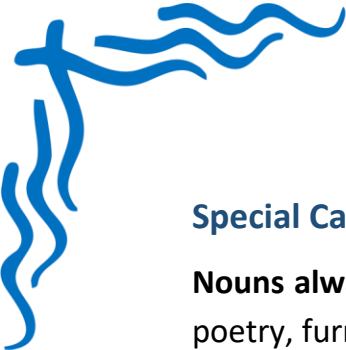
Examples:

- child → children
- ox → oxen

Rule 9: Some nouns remain the same in both singular and plural

Examples:

- sheep → sheep
- deer → deer
- fish → fish (though "fishes" is also used in biological contexts)



Special Cases

Nouns always used with singular verbs: news, physics, mathematics, economics, civics, poetry, furniture, advice

Nouns always used with plural verbs: scissors, trousers, spectacles, people, cattle, poultry, gentry, clothes

Nouns that look plural but are singular: Mathematics, Physics, Politics

Important Exercises from Textbook

1. Write plural forms of given singular nouns

Example:

- city → cities
- foot → feet
- goose → geese

2. Circle the correct plural form

Example:

- watch → watches
- baby → babies
- hero → heroes

3. Spot the Errors

Example:

- The scissor is very sharp.
- The scissors are very sharp.

Points to Remember

- Most nouns take –s or –es in plural.
- Watch out for spelling changes in special rules.
- Some nouns have irregular plurals (**Example:** mouse → mice).
- Certain nouns have same singular and plural forms.
- **Usage with verbs differs:** some nouns that look plural take singular verbs and vice versa.