

plurals

The **plural** of a noun is used when there is more than one.

- You can turn most nouns into plurals by adding **-s**:

books, cats, hands, lions, nails, shoes, stars, tables

- You add **-es** to nouns ending in **-ch, -s, -sh,** or **-x**:

watch	→	watches	clash	→	clashes
bus	→	buses	fox	→	foxes

- You add **-s** to some words ending with **-o** and **-es** to others. Be sure to check in the dictionary which is which:

-s		-es			
video	→	videos	hero	→	heroes
zoo	→	zoos	potato	→	potatoes

- You change some words ending in **-f** or **-fe** to **-ves**:

half	→	halves	knife	→	knives
leaf	→	leaves	life	→	lives

There are a few words that do not become plurals this way, for example **beliefs** and **roofs**. If you are not sure, look up the word in the dictionary.

- If nouns end with a vowel (a, e, o, u) followed by **-y**, you add **-s**:

day	→	days	toy	→	toys
key	→	keys	guy	→	guys

- However, if nouns end with a consonant followed by **-y**, you change the **-y** to **-ies**:

baby	→	babies
country	→	countries

- Some common nouns have plurals that are formed in unusual ways, and you have to learn these separately:

child	→	children	mouse	→	mice
foot	→	feet	woman	→	women

- A few nouns are the same when they are singular and plural:

aircraft	→	aircraft	deer	→	deer
crossroads	→	crossroads	sheep	→	sheep

- Some nouns are usually or always plural. They are often a single tool or item of clothing that has two joined parts, for example:

binoculars	pliers	pyjamas	tights
glasses	scissors	shorts	trousers