

## NOUNS: NUMBER

## Singular and Plural Nouns

- A noun is said to be singular (or in the singular number) if it refers to one person or thing.
- A noun is said to be plural (or in the plural number) if it refers to more than one person or thing.

The nouns girl, doll, bus, knife, baby, photo are singular.

The nouns girls, dolls, buses, knives, babies, photos are plural.

only countable nouns can have a plural form.

## Formation of Plurals

We have the following rules to change singular nouns to plural.

1.	Most of th	e nouns.		Add -s.		
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
	book	books	flower	flowers	train	trains
	boy	boys	girl	girls	tree	trees
	cow	cows	horse	horses	window	windows
2.		ding in a hiss -s, -ss, -sh,		Add -es.		
	ass	asses	bush	bushes	gas	gases
	bench	benches	church	churches	glass	glasses
	box	boxes	class	classes	match	matches
	brush	brushes	dish	dishes	watch	watches

Add -es. 3. Most nouns ending in -o torpedoes torpedo mangoes mango buffaloes buffalo mosquitoes potato potatoes mosquito hero heroes However, some nouns that end in -o form their plural in the normal way.

piano photos pianos photo bamboo bamboos

Nouns: Number

. Nouns end	ling in –f and	-fe		-f or -fe into	-ves.
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
calf	calves	life	lives	wife	wives
half	halves	loaf	loaves	wolf	wolves
knife	knives	shelf	shelves		
leaf	leaves	thief	thieves		
However,	some words en	nding in -f fo	rm their plura	l in the norm	al way.
	chiefs			roof	roofs
5. Nouns en	ding in a cons	onant + y	Change the	-y into -ies.	
army	armies	diary	diaries	lady	ladies
baby	babies	fairy	fairies	pony	ponies
city	cities	family	families	reply	replies
country	countries	fly	flies	story	stories
6. Nouns en	ding in a vowe	el + y	Add -s.		
boy	boys	ray	rays	valley	valleys
donkey	donkeys	storey	storeys	un to mois	Forms

7. A few nouns form their plural by changing the inside vowel or vowels of the singular.

foot	feet	man	men	tooth	teeth
goose	geese	mouse	mice	woman	women
louse	lice	washerman	washermen		

8. Nouns consisting of several words Add -s to the main word.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
commander-in-chief	commanders-in-chief	passer-by	passers-by
maid-servant	maid-servants	son-in-law	sons-in-law
mother-in-law	mothers-in-law	edianed rion	

Remember that the plural of man-servant is men-servants.

- 9. The plural of ox is oxen and that of child is children.
- Deer, sheep, fish, dozen, score and hundred have the same form in the singular as well as the plural. For example,

Singular

Plural

The wolf killed a sheep.

The wolf killed several sheep.

We need a dozen sheets.

We need five dozen sheets.

The shopkeeper sold a score oranges.

The shopkeeper sold three score oranges.

However, we do say—

• dozens of sheets • scores of oranges • hundreds of birds

In the case of fish, we use fishes also. Fish suggests a single variety; fishes suggests different varieties.

In the same way, the plural of fruit can be both fruit and fruits. Fruit suggests a single variety; fruits suggests different varieties:

It is good to eat fruit every day.

A variety of fruits were served at the party.

Scissors, spectacles, trousers, shorts, jeans, clothes (stitched), tongs and scales suggest two essential parts. So these words are used in the plural form:

My spectacles need to be changed. (plural verb - need)

His trousers are dirty. (plural verb - are)

Cattle and people have the appearance of a singular noun. But they are used as plural:

The cattle are grazing in the field. (plural verb - are)

The people were not impressed. (plural verb - were)

Mathematics, politics, news, measles and innings look to be plural. But they are used as singular nouns:

Mathematics is my favourite subject. (we have used is, which The news is not true.

is a singular verb.)

We won the match by an innings and sixty runs.

(The article an is used with a singular noun.)

Furniture, scenery, advice and information are always used in the singular:

This furniture is not for sale.

The scenery here is very charming.

Figures and letters are made plural by adding -'s: 3 — 3's; p — p's:

Add two 4's to three 2's.

You don't write your p's well.

Abstract nouns like love, beauty and anger are not countable. So they have no plural form. But some abstract nouns can have a plural form as well:

victory — victories

failure — failures

shout — shouts

decision — decisions

Substances or materials like iron, copper, wood, stone, paper (sometimes called material nouns) are also not countable. So they are used only in the singular:

Paper is needed to print books.

Wood is used to make furniture.

Nouns: Number

Note. We should not say-

This house is made of stones. X

two essential parts owt

In this sentence, the word stone has been used as the name of a building material. So it is uncountable. But we can say—

The child was throwing stones in the pond.

Here, the word stones means pieces of stone.

Many other nouns that have both countable and uncountable uses have a plural form when they are countable:

The bright lights of the city. (countable)

Light travels very fast. (uncountable)

- Same form in the singular as well as the plural: deer, sheep, fish, dozen, hundred, aircraft
- Used in the plural form: scissors, spectacles, trousers, jeans, shorts, clothes, tongs, binoculars
- Singular in appearance but used as plural: cattle, people
- Plural in appearance but used as singular: Mathematics, politics, innings, news, measles
- Used as singular: furniture, scenery, advice, information
- Only countable nouns have a plural form.

	KRISHNAGAR ACADEMY.
	CLASS-8, SUBJECT-ENGLISHI.
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