



NOUNS: NUMBER

A 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.

B Formation of Plurals

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

1. Most of the nouns.

Add **-s**.

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
book	books	flower	flowers	train	trains
boy	boys	girl	girls	tree	trees
cow	cows	horse	horses	window	windows

2. Nouns ending in a hissing sound

Add **-es**.

(ending in **-s, -ss, -sh, -ch** and **x**)

ass	asses	bush	bushes	gas	gases
bench	benches	church	churches	glass	glasses
box	boxes	class	classes	match	matches
brush	brushes	dish	dishes	watch	watches

3. Most nouns ending in **-o**

Add **-es**.

buffalo	buffaloes	mango	mangoes	torpedo	torpedoes
hero	heroes	mosquito	mosquitoes	potato	potatoes

However, some nouns that end in **-o** form their plural in the normal way.

bamboo	bamboos	photo	photos	piano	pianos
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4. Nouns ending in *-f* and *-fe*

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		

Change the *-f* or *-fe* into *-ves*.

However, some words ending in *-f* form their plural in the normal way.

chief	chiefs	gulf	gulfs	roof	roofs
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5. Nouns ending in a *consonant + y*

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
army	armies	diary	diaries	lady	ladies
baby	babies	fairy	fairies	pony	ponies
city	cities	family	families	reply	replies
country	countries	fly	flies	story	stories

Change the *-y* into *-ies*.

6. Nouns ending in a *vowel + y*

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
boy	boys	ray	rays	valley	valleys
donkey	donkeys	storey	storeys		

Add *-s*.

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		

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

9. The plural of *ox* is *oxen* and that of *child* is *children*.

C *Deer, sheep, fish, dozen, score* and *hundred* have the same form in the singular as well as the plural. For example,

Singular

The wolf killed a **sheep**.

We need a **dozen** sheets.

The shopkeeper sold a **score** oranges.

Plural

The wolf killed **several sheep**.

We need **five dozen** sheets.

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.

- D** *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)

- E** *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)

- F** *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 is a singular verb.)
The **news** is not true.]

We won the match by *an* **innings**] (The article *an* is used with a singular noun.)
and sixty runs.]

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

This **furniture** is not for sale.

The **scenery** here is very charming.

- H** 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.

- I** 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

- J** 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.

Note. We should not say—

This house is made of *stones*. ✗

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 - V, SUBJECT - ENGLISH I.

CHAPTER - NOUNS: NUMBER

19.06.20 TOPIC: SINGULAR AND PLURAL

Let us continue the class by doing some exercises of the same.

Exercise: 3.

1. ~~Even this leaf will fall off in autumn.~~

2. ~~The~~

Exercise: 3. In these sentences, change the underlined nouns into their plural form. Make other changes where necessary.

1. Even this leaf will fall off in autumn.

2. The man who was involved in the accident was saved by a passer-by.

3. The black sheep is grazing in the valley.

4. His reply to my question was correct.

5. The roof of this house is made of stone.
6. A mother-in-law should love her daughter-in-law.
7. The nanny told the child a story about a fairy.

EXERCISE 4: In these sentences, change the underlined nouns into their singular form. Make other changes where necessary.

1. Flies can spread diseases.
2. The knives on the shelves are new.
3. Do you know the ladies and the gentlemen standing outside?
4. Heroes are honoured by their countries.
5. Some passers-by took the children to the hospital.

Now let us check the answers of the questions published in the previous day.
10.06.2020 (WEDNESDAY)

EXERCISE : 1.

1. Pony : Ponies.
2. Piano : Pianos.
3. Leaf : Leaves.
4. Proof : Proofs.
5. Ox : Oxen
6. Tomato : Tomatoes
7. Company : Companies
8. Army : Armies
9. Monkey : Monkeys
10. Man-servant : Menservants
Manservants

EXERCISE : 2.

1. Bodies : Body.
2. Joys : Joy.
3. Leaves : Leaf.
4. Coolies : Coolie.
5. Keys : Key.
6. Bushes : Bush.
7. watches : Watch.
8. Storeys : Storey.
9. feet : Foot.
10. children : child

Next class shall be on 22.06.20 (MONDAY)