



Nouns: Singular and Plural



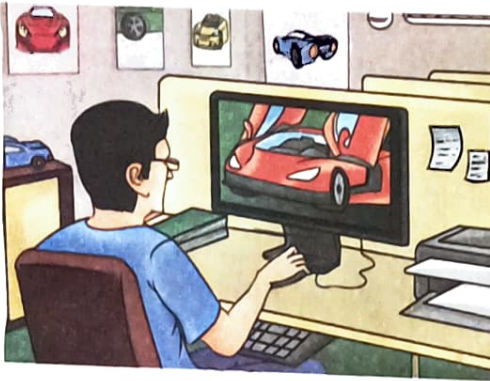
In a game called 'Just A Minute', Nicky and Ricky challenged each other to use the most number of singular and plural nouns.



★ **Underline the singular nouns used by Nicky in her speech.**

My friend invited me to a party at her place. She lives in a large family of nine members. Her beautiful bungalow has many rooms, and each room has a large window that overlooks the lush green lawn. I especially like the arch on the entrance gate. As soon as I reached, I ate a cheese puff and drank a glass of chilled juice. Later, I helped her mother to lay each dish on the table. Her father ensured that each guest was served well. After dinner, we played a game of housie in the garden under the night sky. I had a good time.

★ **Underline the plural nouns used by Ricky in his speech.**



My uncle designs cars for international companies. He meets people from different countries interested in his design. He works at his studio which is hidden behind an array of willow trees and beautiful row-houses. The studio was once invaded by mice and they gnawed at all his papers. Since then, he makes all his drawings on the computer. His children are engineers too. They work as his assistants when they are not working in their factories. When I grow up, I want to design different types of automobiles.

★ **Tick the correctly spelt plural noun given beside the singular nouns.**

dock: docks dockes

bakery: bakerys bakeries

boss: bosses bosses

angel: angels angeles

breath: breaths breathes

tray: trays traies

Say it aloud

- ☐ Countable nouns can be both singular and plural. They can be shown with a number: one bird or hundred birds.
- ☐ A singular noun names one person, thing, place, or idea. A plural noun names more than one person, thing, place, or idea.
- ☐ Add -s to form the plural of most nouns. If a noun ends in -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, or -x, add -es to its singular form.
- ☐ If a noun ends in a consonant + y, drop the y and add -ies to its singular form. If a noun ends in a vowel + y, change it to plural by adding -s after the y.
- ☐ Some plural nouns are irregular, and their spellings need to be memorised.

Change the singular nouns to plural nouns. Add **-s** or **-es** or **-ies**.

cony: balconies tax: Taxes tomb: Tombs ambulance: Ambulances
 ss: crosses kidney: Kidneys edge: Edges grocery: Groceries
 k: Tasks twitch: Twitches depth: Depths musician: Musicians
 ly: Replies glacier: Glaciers storey: Storeys sandwich: Sandwiches

Write the missing form of the given nouns under each of the following rules.

Nouns ending in **-f** and **-fe** form their plural by changing the **-f** and **-fe** into **-ves**.
 However, some words ending in **-f** form their plural in the normal way.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
shelf	shelves	gulf	gulfs	leaf	leaves
proof	proofs	thief	thieves	hoof	hoofs
wife	wives	chief	chiefs	dwarf	dwarfs
calf	calves	half	halves	wolf	wolves

Most nouns ending in **-o** form their plural by adding **-es** to the singular.
 However, some nouns ending in **-o** form their plural in the normal way.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
hero	heroes	piano	pianos	buffalo	buffaloes
bamboo	bamboos	mosquito	mosquitoes	potato	potatoes
tomato	tomatoes	stereo	stereos	photo	photos

Some plural nouns are **irregular**; their spellings need to be memorised.

★ What's the **irregular plural** form of the following singular nouns? Write correctly.

man: men ox: oxen child: children louse: lice
 tooth: teeth person: people goose: geese foot: feet

Say it aloud

Nouns that end in **-f** and **-fe** change the **-f** and **-fe** into **-ves** to form their plural.
 Those ending in **-o** form their plural by adding **-es** to the singular.
 However, some nouns ending in **-f** or **-o** form their plural by adding **-s**, e.g. proofs; pianos.



If a noun consists of several words, the **-s** is added to the main word.

★ **Change the singular compound nouns to plural. Two have been done for you.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. mother-in-law: <u>mothers-in-law</u> | 2. step-mother: <u>step-mothers</u> |
| 3. son-in-law: <u>sons-in-law</u> | 4. daughter-in-law: <u>daughters-in-law</u> |
| 5. passer-by: <u>passers-by</u> | 6. step-brother: <u>step-brothers</u> |
| 7. maid-servant: <u>maid-servants</u> | 8. water tank: <u>water tanks</u> |
| 9. policeman: <u>policemen</u> | 10. manservant: <u>manservants</u> |



Some nouns have the **same form** in the singular and the plural.

★ **In each set, encircle the two nouns that keep the same form in singular and plural.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. mistake <u>bison</u> trumpet <u>sheep</u> | 2. <u>trousers</u> oranges <u>spectacles</u> comma |
| 3. <u>shorts</u> religions <u>scissors</u> picnics | 4. chimney <u>deer</u> governor <u>steel</u> |
| 5. culture <u>advice</u> <u>moose</u> vehicle | 6. ideas <u>series</u> cameras <u>binoculars</u> |
| 7. <u>pants</u> whales <u>tongs</u> creepers | 8. <u>education</u> <u>aircraft</u> skywalk ruler |

★ **Rewrite the sentences by changing the form of the given nouns. Make other necessary changes too. One has been done for you.**

- A **knife** is a sharp **instrument**.
Knives are sharp instruments.
- Do not let **flies** sit on your **food**.
Do not let a fly sit on your food.
- The **wolves** killed several **deer**.
The wolf killed several deer.
- The **trousers** were too big for the **boys**.
The trousers were too big for the boy.
- The **student** was asked to distribute the **chalk**.
The students were asked to distribute the chalks.
- The **lad** bought **tongs** for his **grandmother**.
The lads bought tongs for their grandmothers.
- The **chief** asked for a **pair of tweezers**.
The chiefs asked for pairs of tweezers.

