

## Singular and Plural

### Regular Plural Nouns

Most regular plural nouns are formed by adding **-s** to the singular form.

tube — tubes  
easel — easels

Plurals of nouns ending in **-sh**, **-ch**, **-s**, **-x**, and **-z** are formed by adding **-es**.

brush — brushes

Plurals of nouns ending in a consonant + y are formed by replacing the y with **-ies**.

baby — babies

Most nouns that end in **-o** form the regular plural with **-s**, but a few are formed with **-oes**. Here are the most common:

echo — echoes  
hero — heroes  
potato — potatoes  
tomato — tomatoes

### Irregular Plural Nouns

Nouns that end in **-f** usually form irregular plurals with **-ves**.

Here are few examples:

knife — knives  
half — halves  
loaf — loaves  
leaf — leaves  
scarf — scarves

Other irregular plural nouns take a variety of forms. Since there is no single rule that applies to these nouns, the best way to learn their plurals is to memorize them.

Here are some common examples:

child — children  
foot — feet  
man — men  
mouse — mice  
ox — oxen  
person — people  
tooth — teeth  
woman — women

Finally, there are some nouns ending in **-s** whose plural form is the same as their singular form. Here again, the best option is to memorize these nouns. Here are some common examples :

barracks  
crossroads  
series  
species

### Plural with **-'s**

Plural forms of letter, dates, and some abbreviations are formed with **-'s**. (Note that it is incorrect to form plurals with **-'s** in any other case.)

“O’Keeffe” is spelled with two **e’s**.  
He began painting in the **1960’s**.  
Manipulating images on **PC’s** is becoming more common.

### Count and Non-Count Nouns

Count nouns are the names of separate objects, people, ideas, etc., that can be counted. We can use the indefinite article (**a/an**) or numbers with count nouns.

**a** paintbrush  
**an** artist  
**two** lenses  
**five** tones

Non-count, or mass, nouns are the names of materials, liquids, abstract qualities, collections, and other things that we see as masses without clear boundaries, and not as separate objects. We cannot use numbers with non-count nouns, and most are singular, with no plurals.

wool (~~a wool, two wools~~)  
photography (~~a photography, two photographs~~)  
water (~~a water, two waters~~)  
nature (~~a nature, two natures~~)

### Compound Nouns

When a compound noun is formed with noun + adverb, the plural **-s** is usually added to the noun.

passer-by — passers-by  
runner-up — runners-up

When a compound noun is formed with noun + noun, the plural **-s** is added to the second noun.

paint box — paint boxes  
fabric shop — fabric shops