



Lesson5: Number of Noun English Teachers On Call

The number of a noun indicates whether a person or thing is one or more than one. Nouns have two numbers.

1. Singular Number

Singular number shows only one person or thing.

Example. Girl, tree, boat

2. Plural Number

The plural number shows more than one person or thing.

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e	Singular	Plural
	Book	books
	Chair	chairs
	Shoe	shoes
	Cousin	cousins

2. By adding 'es' to nouns ending in X, S, SH, CH

Singular	Plural
Box	boxes
Church	churches
Bush	bushes
Gas	gases

3. By adding 'es' to nouns ending in -o

Singular	Plural
Potato	potatoes
Hero	heroes
Mosquito	mosquitoes
Tomato	tomatoes

Some words or nouns ending in 'o' only adds 's' to the singular form.

Photo	photos
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e	Baby	babies
	Country	countries
	Lady	ladies
	Story	stories

5. By adding 's' to the singular if 'Y' comes after a vowel (a, e, i, o, u)

Singular	Plural
Day	days
Valley	valleys
Boy	boys
Guy	guys

Monkey

Monkeys

6. By changing 'f' or 'fe' to ves

Singular

Plural

Shelf

shelves

Wolf

wolves

Life

lives

Wife

wives

Some nouns ending in 'f' only add 's' to the singular form to make them plural.

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Singular

Plural

Mouse

mice

Goose

geese

Dormouse

dormice

Man

men

Louse

lice

Tooth

teeth

Some nouns have the same spelling for both the singular and plural.

Singular

Plural

Sheep	sheep
Cattle	cattle
Swine	swine
Deer	deer
Fish	fish or fishes
Furniture	furniture
Advice	advice

8. By adding _‘en’

Singular	Plural
Child	children
Ox	oxen

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PLURAL OF COMPOUND NOUNS

- Compound nouns usually form their plural by adding ‘s’ to the most important word or words.

Singular	Plural
Governor general	governor generals
Sergeant at arm	sergeant at arms
Daughter-in-law	daughters –in-law
Editor-in-chief	editors-in-chief

2. Compound nouns ending in 'ful' form the plural by adding 's' to the last syllable.

Singular	Plural
Spoonful	spoonfuls
Handful	handfuls
Cupful	cupfuls
Teaspoonful	teaspoonfuls

9. Numbers, letters, and symbols form the plural by adding 's' to singular.

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Miss Garcia

Mr. Alba

Alba

Dr. Bautista

Bautista

Messrs. Alba

or The Mr.

The Doctors Bautista or The Dr.

11. Some nouns taken from foreign languages retain or keep their foreign plural.

Singular	Plural
Radius	radii
Alumnus	alumni
Basis	bases

Analysis	analyses
Synopsis	synopses
Datum	data
Bacterium	bacteria
Alumna	alumnae
Crisis	crises
Oasis	oases
Thesis	theses
Stratum	strata
Vertebra	vertebrae
Forum	for a

Some nouns taken from foreign languages both foreign and

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Exercise 9

Write the plural of the following:

1. fungus
2. cactus
3. syllabus
4. criteria
5. mystery
6. stimulus
7. medium
8. lady-in-waiting
9. son-in-law

10. spy



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