

NOUNS

A. Gender

Masculine/ feminine nouns denoting people:

Boy, girl	gentleman, lady	son, daughter
Bachelor, spinster	husband, wife	uncle, aunt
Bridegroom, bride	man, woman	widower, widow
Father, mother	nephew, niece	brother, sister

Duke, duchess	king, queen	prince, princess
Earl, countess	lord, lady	

Actor, actress	host, hostess	conductor, conductress
Steward, stewardess	heir, heiress	Manager, manageress
Hero, heroine	waiter, waitress	salesman, saleswoman
Priest, priestess	Frenchman, Frenchwoman	Policeman, policewoman

Animals

Bull, cow	duck, drake	ram, ewe	stallion, mare
Cock, hen	gander, goose	stag, doe	tiger, tigress
Dog, bitch	lion, lioness		

Neuter

Baby	infant	relative	cook	driver	scientist
Child	parent	spouse	assistant	dancer	student
Cousin	teenager	artist	doctor	secretary	teacher

- Ships and sometimes cars and other vehicles when regarded with affection are considered feminine. Countries when referred to by name are also considered feminine.
- In the past, English has used the male pronoun to refer to both sexes.
Everyone should face his destiny. (his = his or her)
Men have lived on earth for more than a million years. (men = men and women)

But nowadays, people prefer to use **he or she** instead of **he**, or to use a new word **s/he**, or **chairperson** for **chairman**, **spokesperson** for **spokesman**.

B. Plural

1. The plural of a noun is usually made by adding **s** to the singular:

Day, days dog, dogs house, houses

s is pronounced /s/ after **p**, **k**, or **f** sound. Otherwise it is pronounced /z/

cups books laughs

2. Nouns ending in **o**, **ch**, **sh**, **ss**, or **x** form their plural by adding **es**:

Tomato, tomatoes brush, brushes box, boxes
Church, churches kiss, kisses

3. Words of foreign origin or abbreviated words ending in **o** add **s** only:

Dynamo, dynamos kimono, kimonos piano, pianos
Kilo, kilos photo, photos soprano, sopranos

4. Nouns ending in **y** following a consonant form their plural by dropping the **y** and adding **ies**:

Baby, babies country, countries fly, flies lady, ladies

5. Nouns ending in **y** following a vowel form their plural by adding **s**:

Boy, boys day, days donkey, donkeys guy, guys

6. Twelve nouns ending in **f** or **fe** drop the **f** or **fe** and add **ves**:

Calf, half, knife, leaf, loaf, life, self, sheaf, shelf, thief, wife, wolf:
Wife, wives

7. The nouns hoof, scarf, and wharf take either **s** or **ves**.

8. Other words ending in **f** or **fe** add **s** in the ordinary way:

Cliff, cliffs handkerchief, handkerchiefs safe, safes

9. A few nouns form their plural by a vowel change:

Foot, feet louse, lice mouse, mice woman, women
Goose, geese man, men tooth, teeth

10. The plural of **child** and **ox** are **children**, **oxen**

11. Names of certain creatures do not change in the plural.

Fish, mackerel, squid, salmon
Deer, sheep

12. Others add **s**:

Crabs, lobsters, sharks, sardines

13. Collective nouns (team, crew, class, family, government, etc.) can take a singular or plural verb.

14. Certain words are always plural:

Clothes, breeches, pants, pyjamas, trousers, binoculars, glasses,
scissors,
damages, goods, stairs, surroundings, etc.

15. Names of science is mostly singular

Mathematics, physics, economics, etc.

16. Words like **news**, **mumps**, **billiards**, **dominoes**, **bowls** are plural in form but singular in meaning.

17. Some words which come from their original Greek or Latin forms make their plurals according to the rules of Greek or Latin:

Crisis, crises phenomenon, phenomena datum, data

18. But some follow the English rules:

Dogma, dogmas formula, formulas gymnasium, gymnasiums

19. For compound nouns, normally the last word is made plural:

Boy-friends travel agents

20. But where man and woman is prefixed both parts are made plural:

Man driver, men drivers woman driver, women drivers

21. The first word is made plural with compounds formed of verb + **er** nouns + adverbs:

Hangers-on runners-up

22. And with compounds composed of noun + preposition + noun:

Sisters-in-law

23. Initials can be made plural:

MPs (Members of Parliament)
VIPs (very important persons)
UFOs (unidentified flying objects)