

Making Singular Nouns Plural



Singular and Plural

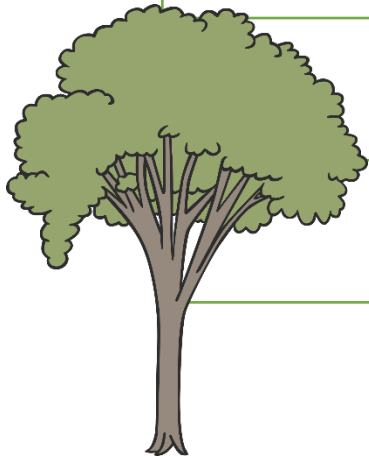
The word **singular** means just one of something, for example a house or a dog.

The word **plural** means more than one of something, for example houses or dogs.

The word **singular** is very similar to **single**. This can help us remember the meanings of **singular** and **plural**.

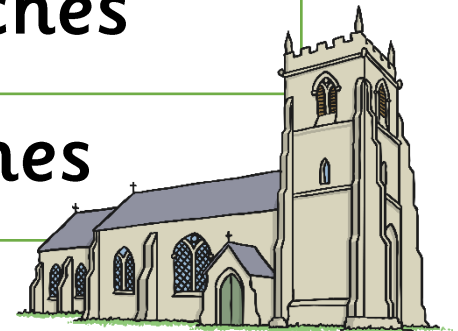
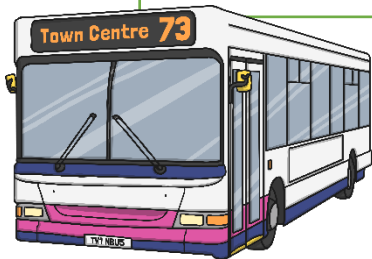
Most singular nouns form the plural by adding **-s**.

singular form	plural form
boat	boats
car	cars
house	houses
tree	trees



Singular nouns ending in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch' or 'sh' form the plural by adding **-es**.

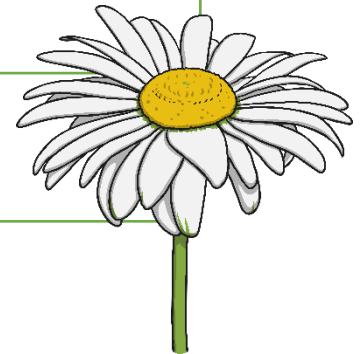
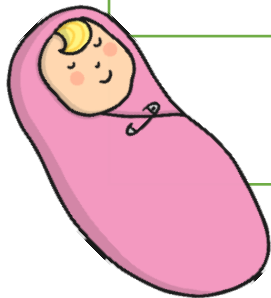
singular form	plural form
bus	buses
box	boxes
church	churches
wish	wishes



Try saying 'buss', 'boxs' or 'wishes' and you will see why nouns which end in a hissing sound use **-es** in the plural!

Singular nouns ending in a consonant and the letter 'y' form the plural by dropping the 'y' and adding **-ies**.

singular form	plural form
penny	pennies
baby	babies
daisy	daisies
spy	spies



Singular nouns ending in a vowel and the letter 'y' form the plural by simply adding **-s**.

singular form	plural form
boy	boys
toy	toys
valley	valleys
tray	trays



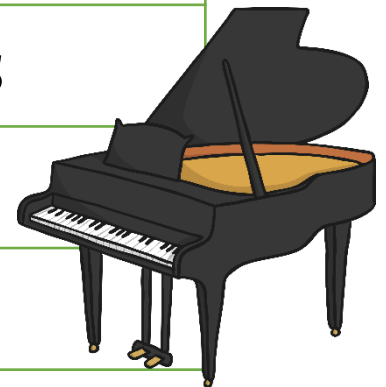
So, most of the time, we make a plural noun by adding an **-s**, **-es** or **-ies**.

BUT

The English language has some rule-breaking nouns in it. These are nouns that have their own special rules or spellings for making them into plurals.

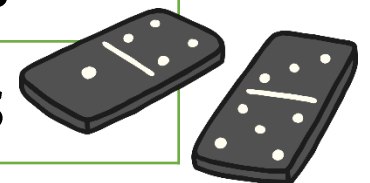
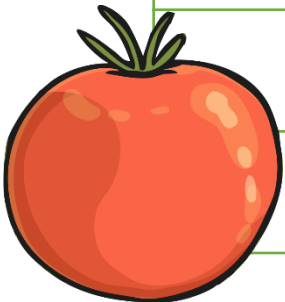
Some singular nouns ending in 'o' form the plural by adding -s.

singular form	plural form
piano	pianos
solo	solos
photo	photos
memo	memos
kilo	kilos
video	videos



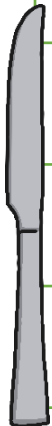
But some singular nouns ending in 'o'
form the plural by adding **-es!**

singular form	plural form
potato	potatoes
hero	heroes
tomato	tomatoes
echo	echoes
torpedo	torpedoes
domino	dominoes



Nouns that end in 'f' or 'fe' usually form the plural by dropping the 'f' and adding **-ves**.

singular form	plural form
thief	thieves
knife	knives
wife	wives
elf	elves
leaf	leaves



However, some nouns that end in 'f' form the plural by simply adding -s.

singular form	plural form
cliff	cliffs
earmuff	earmuffs
foodstuff	foodstuffs
cuff	cuffs
playoff	playoffs
roof	roofs

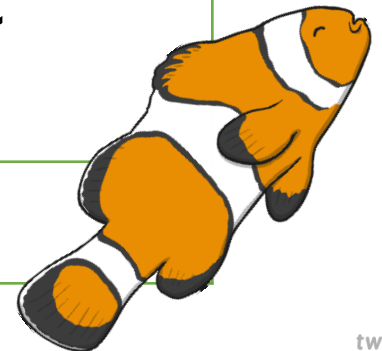
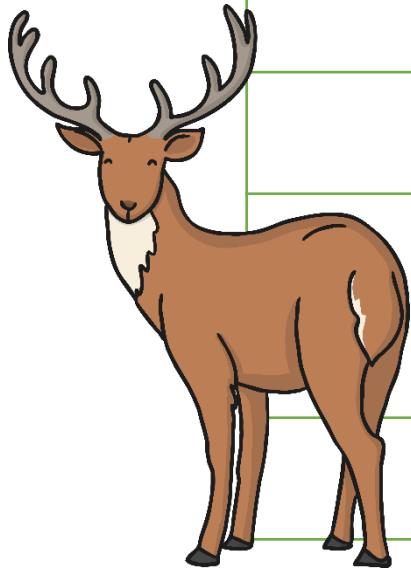


Top Tip

If you can hear the sound 'f' in the plural noun (for example 'cliffs'), you probably spell the plural form with an 'f'. If you can hear a 'v' sound (as in 'wives'), then you will probably need to use a **-ves** plural.

Some tricky nouns are the same in the singular and the plural forms.

singular form	plural form
sheep	sheep
fish	fish
deer	deer
aircraft	aircraft
species	species



Pairs of things usually only have a plural form.

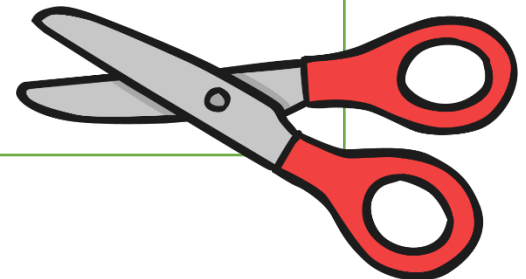
plural form

trousers

glasses

scissors

jeans



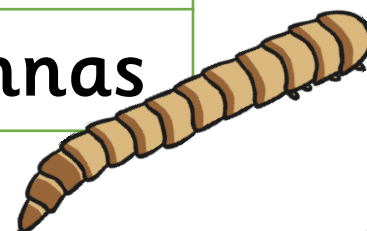
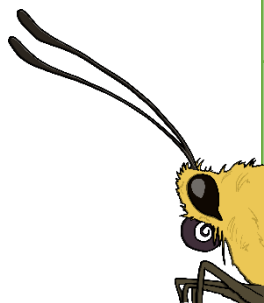
Foreign Words

Many English nouns have been taken from other languages so they behave differently - the plurals are formed as they would be in the original language.

But some nouns in this group can also use an English plural **-s** or **-es**. These nouns are shown in the following slides.

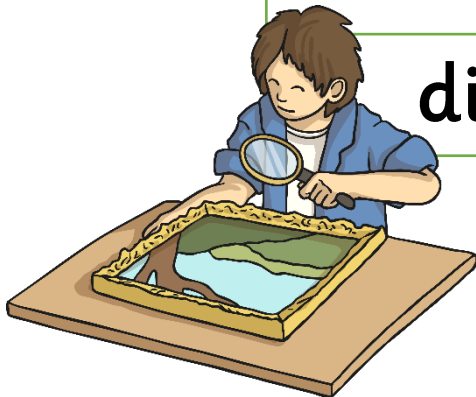
Singular Greek and Latin nouns ending in 'a' add an **-e** to form the plural.

singular form	plural form	English plural form
larva	larvae	
alga	algae	
formula	formulae	formulas
antenna	antennae	antennas



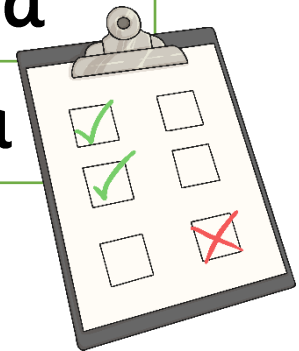
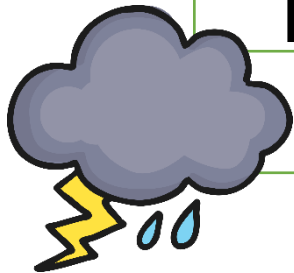
Singular Greek and Latin nouns ending in 'is' change it to **-es** to form the plural

singular form	plural form
analysis	analyses
crisis	crises
oasis	oases
diagnosis	diagnoses



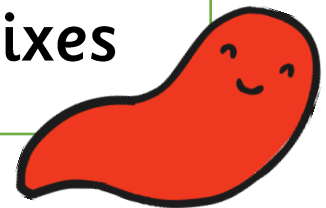
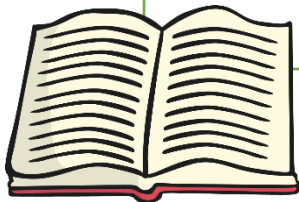
Singular Greek nouns ending in 'on' change it to **-a** to form the plural.

singular form	plural form
crit erion	crit eria
phenom enon	phenom ena
autom aton	autom ata



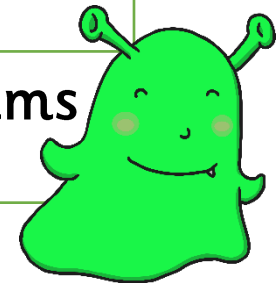
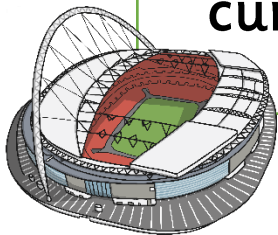
Singular Latin nouns ending in 'ix' or 'ex' use **-ices** to form the plural.

singular form	plural form	English plural form
index	indices	indexes
appendix	appendices	appendixes
matrix	matrices	matrixes



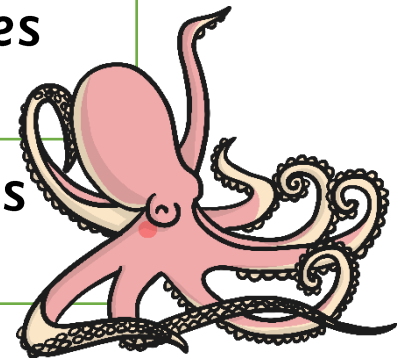
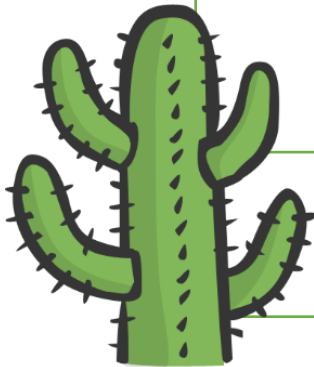
Singular Latin nouns ending in 'um' use -a to form the plural.

singular form	plural form	English plural form
datum	data	
bacterium	bacteria	
stadium	stadia	stadiums
curriculum	curricula	curriculum




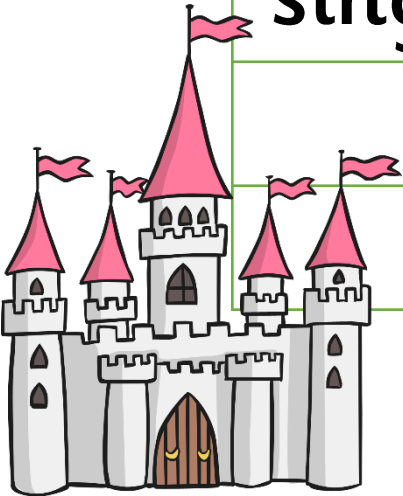
Most singular Latin nouns ending in 'us' change to **-i** to form the plural.

singular form	plural form	English plural form
fungus	fungi	funguses
octopus	octopi	octopuses
cactus	cacti	cactuses
focus	foci	focuses



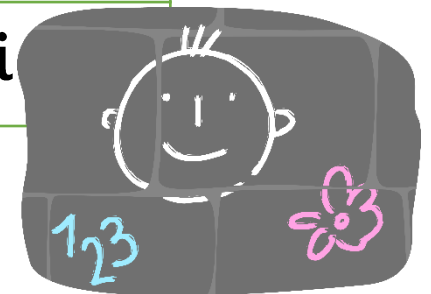
Singular French nouns ending in 'eau' or 'eu'
add **-x** to form the plural.

singular form	plural form
chateau	chateaux
gateau	gateaux



Singular Italian nouns ending in 'o' change to -i to form the plural.

singular form	plural form
virtuoso	virtuosi
graffito	graffiti
paparazzo	paparazzi



Some nouns are completely irregular and do not follow any of these patterns.

These plurals are called mutated (or mutating) plurals.

For example:



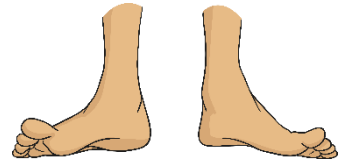
woman



women



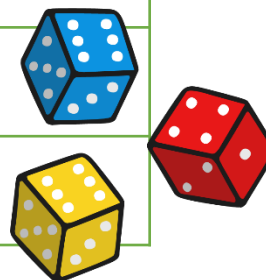
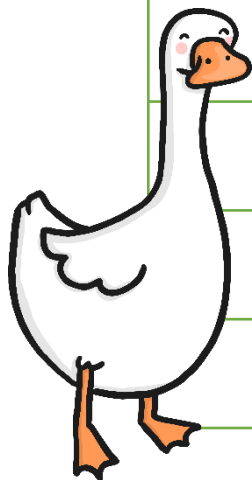
foot



feet

More Examples of Irregular (Mutated) Plural Nouns

singular form	plural form
man	men
child	children
tooth	teeth
die	dice
mouse	mice
goose	geese
person	people



Making Singular English Nouns Plural

singular form	To form the plural.....	plural form
boat	add -s	boats
bus	add -es	buses
penny	drop y, add -ies	pennies
piano	add -s	pianos
domino	add -es	dominoes
thief	drop f, add -ves	thieves
cliff	add -s	cliffs
sheep	do nothing	sheep
trousers	do nothing	trousers
die	change the word	dice
foot	change the word	feet
person	change the word	people

Making Singular Foreign Nouns Plural

singular form	To form the plural.....	plural form
larva	add -e	larvae
formula	add -e or -s	formulae/formulas
analysis	change -i to an -e	analyses
phenomenon	drop -on, add -a	phenomena
index	drop -x, add -ices, or add -s	indices/indexes
stadium	drop -um, add -a, or add -s	stadia/stadiums
fungus	drop -us, add -i, or add -es	fungi/funguses
chateau	add -x	chateaux
graffito	change -o to -i	graffiti

What is the plural form of 'cuff' ?

A) cuffes

B) cuff

C) cuves

D) cuffs



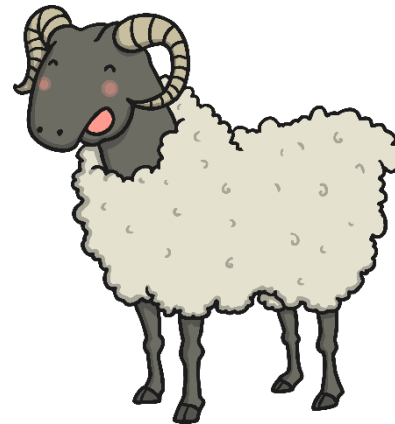
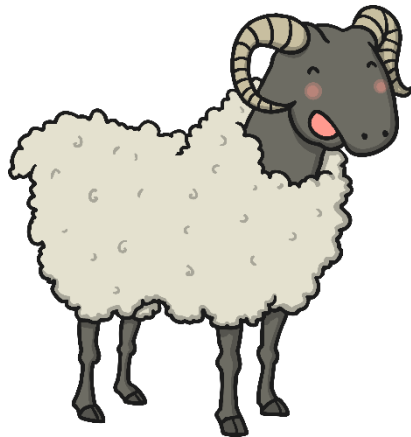
What is the plural form of 'sheep' ?

A) sheeps

B) sheepes

C) sheep

D) sheepies



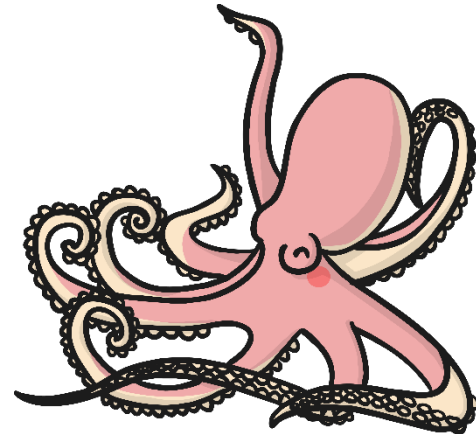
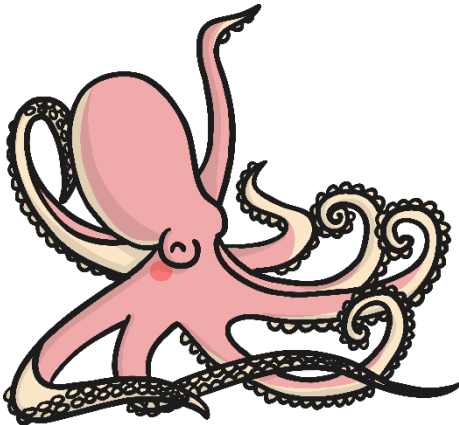
What is the plural form of 'octopus' ?

A) octopi

B) octopusies

C) octopuses

D) octopusi



Can you find the singular and plural noun pairs?



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click

