

Plurals are used when there is more than one of something. Usually you just add an 's', but there are a number of tricky words where you have to apply a different spelling rule.

Rule 1 Simply add an 's'

Examples: month = month**s**, desk = desk**s**

Rule 2 If the word ends in a 'y'

If there is a vowel before the 'y', just add an 's'.

If there is a consonant before the 'y', change the 'y' to 'ies'.

Examples: city = cit**ies**, family = famil**ies**

Rule 3 If there is an 'o' at the end of a word

If there is a vowel before the 'o', just add an 's'.

If there is a consonant before the 'o', add 'es'.

Examples: video = vide**o****s**, hero = her**o****es**

Rule 4 Words that end in 'ch', 'sh', 'x' or 'z'

Add 'es'.

Examples: beach = beach**es**, wish = wish**es**, box = box**es**,
fizz = fizz**es**

Rule 5 If a word already ends in an 's'
Add 'es'.

Examples: lens = lenses, loss = losses

Rule 6 If a word ends in an 'f' or 'fe'
Nearly always replace the 'f' with 'ves'

Examples: half = halves, life = lives

Some words are irregular and do not follow this rule! You just have to remember which ones they are.

Examples: roof = roofs, chef = chefs

Rule 7 Some words change completely!
Some words change when a plural is made.

Examples: child = children, person = people, man = men

Rule 8 Some words don't change at all!
They are the same in both singular and plural form.

Examples: sheep = sheep, series = series

Plurals - can you spot which rule applies?

Using the rules to help you, write plurals of the following words:

E.g. One train  *two trains*

One reply  three

One tax  four

One speech  seven

One class  twenty

One thief  six

One brush  two

One video  four

One cake  three

One man  five

One holiday  ten

One cliff  three

One foot  two

One aircraft  three

One tuna  nine

Plural card game

- In teams, cut out the word cards, adding at least three new words per player (words which can be made into plurals).
- Now cut out the ending cards.
- Shuffle the word cards and place them face down in a pile.
- Place the plural ending cards face up, within easy reach of all the players.
- Take it in turns to take a word card from the pile. You have 10 seconds to choose the correct ending, by putting your hand on the card. If you do so, you score 5 points.
- If you don't know the answer, you have to show the card to your team mates. The first person to put their hand on the correct ending card wins 10 bonus points.
- The player with the highest score at the end wins.

Word cards

monkey	fly	box
tomato	kiss	dish
leaf	child	church
dwarf	man	tuna

Plural ending cards

Add an 's'	Change to 'ies'	Add 'es'
Change to 'ves'	New word	No change

Blank grid to add own words
