

# Plural English Nouns

## Spelling Regular Plural English Nouns

To form the plural of most regular nouns, add the suffix *-s* to the end of the noun.

bee – bees	fan – fans
book – books	girl – girls
boy – boys	monkey – monkeys
cab – cabs	sac – sacs
cat – cats	sack – sacks
dad – dads	table – tables
donkey – donkeys	tray – trays
farm – farms	wig – wigs

For nouns that end in an *-s*, *-z*, *-x*, *-ch*, or *-sh*, add the suffix *-es* to the end of the noun.

blintz – blintzes	hex – hexes
box – boxes	mess – messes
bus – buses	match – matches
bush – bushes	topaz – topazes
coach – coaches	waltz – waltzes
fez – fezes	

For nouns that end in an *-z* preceded by an *i*, double the *z* and add the suffix *-es* to the end of the noun.

quiz – quizzes  
tiz – tizzes  
wiz or whiz – wizzes or whizzes

For nouns ending with a consonant and then a *y*, change the *y* to an *i* and then add the *-es* suffix.

baby – babies	fairy – fairies
berry – berries	memory – memories
butterfly – butterflies	party – parties
cherry – cherries	sky – skies
daisy – daisies	story – stories
family – families	theory – theories

Some nouns spelled with a final *f* have two acceptable forms.

dwarf – dwarfs or dwarves	scarf – scarfs or scarves
handkerchief – handkerchiefs or handkerchieves	staff – staffs or staves
hoof – hoofs or hooves	wharf – wharfs or wharves
roof – roofs or rooves	



For most nouns spelled with a final *f* or *fe*, change the *f* or *fe* to a *ve* and then add the *-s* suffix.

calf – calves  
elf – elves  
half – halves  
knife – knives  
leaf – leaves  
life – lives

loaf – loaves  
shelf – selves  
thief – thieves  
wife – wives  
wolf – wolves

Other nouns spelled with a final *f* take only the *-s* suffix in the plural form.

belief – beliefs  
brief – briefs  
chief – chiefs  
gulf – gulfs

proof – proofs  
reef – reefs  
safe – safes

For nouns ending with a vowel and then an *o*, add the *-s* suffix.

duo – duos  
radio – radios  
stereo – stereos  
studio – studios  
video – videos

For nouns of foreign origin including most musical terms that end with an *o*, also add the *-s* suffix. For example:

kilo – kilos  
kimono – kimonos  
photo – photos  
piano – pianos

solo – solos  
taco – tacos  
zero – zeros

For most nouns ending with a consonant and then an *o*, add the *-es* suffix.

echo – echoes  
hero – heroes  
potato – potatoes

tomato – tomatoes  
volcano – volcanoes

Some nouns ending with a consonant and then an *o* take either the *-s* or the *-es* suffix.

avocado – avocados or avocadoes  
ghetto – ghettos or ghettoes  
hobo – hobos or hoboos  
tornado – tornados or tornadoes



## Spelling Irregular Plural English Nouns

Unlike most English nouns through which *-s* or *-es* suffixation creates the plural forms, irregular English nouns require different changes from the singular to the plural. Some irregular English nouns require a vowel sound change, or ablaut, between the singular and plural forms.

foot – feet  
goose – geese  
louse – lice  
man – men  
mouse – mice  
person – people (vowel and consonant sound changes)  
tooth – teeth  
woman – women

Some irregular nouns in English are formed by the addition of an *-en* suffix.

child – children  
ox – oxen

For other irregular English nouns, the plural form is identical to the singular form.

bison	moose
deer	offspring
fish	sheep

## Spelling Foreign Loanword Plurals

Many loanwords from foreign languages have irregular plural forms. For Latin loanwords that end in *a*, change the *a* to an *ae*.

alumna – alumnae  
formula – formulae

For Latin loanwords that end in *ex* or *ix*, change the *ex* or *ix* to *ices*.

index – indices/indexes  
matrix – matrices  
vertex – vertices

For Latin loanwords that end in *is*, change the *is* to an *es*.

analysis – analyses	testis – testes
axis – axes	thesis – theses
crisis – crises	



For Latin loanwords that end in *on*, change the *on* to an *a*.

automaton – automata  
criterion – criteria  
phenomenon – phenomena

For Latin loanwords that end in *um*, change the *um* to an *a*.

addendum – addenda  
datum – data  
medium – media  
memorandum – memoranda  
millennium – millennia

For Latin loanwords that end in *us*, change the *us* to an *i*, *era*, *ora*, or *es*.

alumnus – alumni  
cactus – cacti  
corpus – corpora  
census – censuses  
focus – foci  
fungus – fungi  
genus – genera  
radius – radii  
syllabus – syllabi  
uterus – uteri  
viscus – viscera

For Greek loanwords that end in *ma*, add the suffix *-ta* to the end of the word.

dogma – dogmata  
schema – schemata  
stigma – stigmata  
stoma – stomata

For some French loanwords that end in *eau*, add a silent *-x* suffix to the end of the word.

beau – beaux  
bureau – bureaux/bureaus  
château – châteaux

For some Hebrew loanwords, add the suffix *-im* or *-ot* to the end of the word.

cherub – cherubim  
matzah – matzot  
seraph – seraphim

