

NOUNS (3)

The Plural of Nouns (01) - Part B: Medium (2)

In Context:
10 min

What is a noun?

A noun is a word that is a person, an animal, a place, an object or an idea.



woman



cat



city



umbrella



communication

Forming a Noun in the Plural

30 min

To form the plural, we add 's' at the end of a word.

Examples:

car → *cars*

shoe → *shoes*

bed → *beds*

For words ending in -ch, sh, x, s, we add 'es' at the end in the plural.

Examples:

watch → *watches*

wish → *wishes*

box → *boxes*

glass → *glasses*

With words ending in a consonant and a 'y', we change the 'y' to an 'i' and add 'es'.

Examples:

baby → *babies*

theory → *theories*

lady → *ladies*

Some words that end in 'o' have their plural in 'oes', others in 'os'.

Examples:

tomato → *tomatoes*

hero → *heroes*

BUT:

memo → *memos*

photo → *photos*

Plurals of words ending in '-f' or '-fe' generally change the 'f' to a 'v', and add 's' or 'es', but not always.

Examples:

knife → *knives*

life → *lives*

BUT:

roof → *roofs*
belief → *beliefs*

There are several nouns that have irregular plural forms.

Examples:

child → *children*
man → *men*
woman → *women*
person → *people*
mouse → *mice*
goose → *geese*

Some nouns maintain their Latin or Greek form in the plural.

Examples:

thesis → *theses*
crisis → *crises*
phenomenon → *phenomena*
index → *indices*
criterion → *criteria*

Some words stay the same in the singular and the plural.

Examples:

deer → *deer*
sheep → *sheep*
salmon → *salmon*
aircraft → *aircraft*

Last names can also take the plural, 's' or 'es'.

Examples:

Kennedy → *the Kennedys*
Brown → *the Browns*
Jones → *the Joneses*

Acronyms can also take the plural.

Examples:

MP(Member of Parliament) → *MPs*
CEO(Chief Executive Officer) → *CEOs*

UFO(Unidentified Flying Object) → *UFOs*

For compound words, there are 3 possibilities:

Possibility 1: if only one element is a noun, this noun will be in the plural.

Example:

passer-by → *passers-by*

Possibility 2: if both elements or neither are nouns, the second one takes the plural form.

Examples:

tooth-brush → *tooth-brushes*

grown-up → *grown-ups*

Possibility 3: if one of the elements is 'man' or 'woman', both are modified.

Examples:

gentleman-farmer → *gentlemen-farmers*

woman-doctor → *women-doctors*

We use an apostrophe to create plural forms in 2 situations:

Possibility 1: for pluralized letters of the alphabet

Examples:

Steve is a very good student, he got *A's* and *B's* all year long.

Possibility 2: when we try to create the plural form of a word that refers to the word itself.

Examples:

There are four *and's* in your sentence. (meaning: the word 'and' is used four times in your sentence.)

Language Tip: Pronunciation of Plurals

5 min

When we speak, there are 3 plural sounds: "s", "z", and "iz".

Examples:

cats ("s")

dogs ("z")

consequences("iz")

Writing Exercise

5 min

Choose the correct plural.

1. They work for different _____. (companys/companies)
2. I do not trust _____. (man-doctors/men-doctors)
3. Bank _____ make a lot of money.(CEO/CEOs)
4. They really enjoy their _____.(lives/lifes)
5. Mrs. Smith bought _____ at the market.(tomatos/tomatoes)
6. How many _____ do you have? (children/childs)
7. There are six _____ in the room. (persons/people)
8. Little girls are often afraid of _____.(mouses/mice)
9. My neighbor loves _____.(cates/cats)
10. They have very nice _____ (watches/watchs)

Listening Exercise

2-5 min

Listen to your teacher pronounce the following words.

1. boxes
2. consequences
3. potatoes
4. photos
5. watches
6. babies
7. cats
8. women
9. knives
10. experiences

Writing Exercise with the Instructor

2-5 min

Listen to your teacher pronounce the following words again and write them.

1. boxes
2. consequences
3. potatoes
4. photos
5. watches
6. babies
7. cats
8. women
9. knives
10. experiences

Reading Exercise with the Instructor

5 min

Read these words to your teacher.

1. reflexes
2. distances
3. tomatoes
4. memos
5. churches

Watch the Video!

10 min

With this video lesson, you will practice irregular plural nouns.

Watch the video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yoFKJ_sFXnI&feature=related

Watch it again and give the plural of these nouns:

1. fish: _____
2. deer: _____
3. sheep: _____
4. foot: _____
5. tooth: _____
6. person: _____

Quiz

10 min

True or False?

- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| 1. Acronyms cannot take the plural. | true | false |
| 2. The plural of 'hero' is 'heroes'. | true | false |
| 3. Last names cannot take the plural. | true | false |
| 4. All nouns have a different form in the plural. | true | false |

Write the following nouns in the plural:

1. deer: _____
2. watch: _____
3. shoe: _____
4. memory: _____

Write the following nouns in the singular

1. people: _____
2. gentlemen-farmers: _____
3. teeth: _____
4. knives: _____

Write the following sentences in the plural:

1. There is a person behind you.

2. Can you see the deer?

3. We are not sure we believe his theory.

4. A grown-up is supposed to be more mature than a child.
