ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Singular and plural nouns

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you show whether you mean one thing or more than one in your writing, like one dog or three dogs, so your reader always knows how many you mean. Getting it wrong can change the meaning of a whole sentence, because the reader counts on that ending to tell them how many there are. It also keeps the rest of the sentence matching, since the verb and the other words follow the number you chose. Clear writing starts with the reader never having to guess how many you mean.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Give the plural of 'box'.

SOLUTION

The word ends in x, so just adding s would be hard to say: 'boxs'.

For words ending in s, x, ch, or sh, add es.

So the plural is 'boxes'.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Give the plural of 'baby'.

SOLUTION

The word ends in consonant plus y: b a b y.

For consonant plus y, change y to i and add es.

So the plural is 'babies'.

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Practice questions

1 Give the plural of cat.

- A cat
- B cats
- C cates
- D cat's

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2 Which sentence about two churches is correct?

- A The churches are old.
- B The churchs are old.
- C The church are old.
- D The churches is old.

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3

Give the plural of boy.

A boies

B boy

C boyes

D boys

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4

Pick the right plural of city:

A cities

B citys

C cityes

D city

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5

Give the plural of dish.

A dishs

B dish

C dishes

D dishies

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6

Give the plural of sheep.

A sheeps

B sheep

C sheepes

D sheepses

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7 One leaf fell from the tree. Many ___ fell after the wind. Fill the gap.

- A leafs
- B leafes
- C leave
- D leaves

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8 One child is here. Two ___ are here. Fill the gap.

- A children
- B childs
- C childrens
- D child

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9

Give the plural of woman.

A womans

B womens

C women

D woman

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10

Fix this shopping list sentence: I bought three potatos. Which version is correct?

A I bought three potato's.

B I bought three potatoes.

C I bought three potato.

D I bought three potatoe.

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ANSWER KEY

1. cats

2. The churches are old.

3. boys

4. cities

5. dishes

6. sheep

7. leaves

8. children

9. women

10. I bought three potatoes.

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