

THE PLURAL OF NOUNS

ACTIVITY TYPE

Reading, Writing, Grammar,
Exercises

LANGUAGE FOCUS

the plural of nouns

AIM

To learn and practice how to
form the plural of nouns

LEVEL

Beginner

TIME

45 Min

INTRODUCTION

After going through your regular review and teacher talk, tell the students that they're going to learn how to form the plural of nouns in English

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student

PROCEDURE

Give one copy of the worksheet to each student.
Go through the grammar and exercises together.

WRAPUP

Ask the students if they have any doubts.
Thank them for coming to the lesson.

THE PLURAL OF NOUNS

Most nouns form the plural by adding *-s* or *-es*.

Singular	Plural
boat	boats
hat	hats
house	houses
river	rivers

A noun ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant makes the plural with *-ies*.

Singular	Plural
a cry	cries
a fly	flies
a nappy	nappies
a poppy	poppies
a city	cities
a lady	ladies

a baby

babies

There are some *irregular* formations for noun plurals.

Some of the most common ones are listed below.

Examples of irregular plurals:

Singular

Plural

woman

women

man

men

child

children

tooth

teeth

foot

feet

person

people

leaf

leaves

half

halves

knife

knives

wife

wives

life

lives

loaf

loaves

potato

potatoes

cactus	cacti
focus	foci
fungus	fungi
nucleus	nuclei
syllabus	syllabi/syllabuses
analysis	analyses
diagnosis	diagnoses
oasis	oases
thesis	theses
crisis	crises
phenomenon	phenomena
criterion	criteria
datum	data

Some nouns have the same form in the singular and the plural.

Examples:

Singular	Plural
sheep	sheep



fish

fish

species

species

aircraft

aircraft

Some nouns have a plural form but take a singular verb.

Examples:

news → The *news is* on at 6.30 p.m.

athletics → *Athletics is* good for young people.

linguistics → *Linguistics is* the study of language.

darts → *Darts is* a popular game in England.

billiards → *Billiards is* played all over the world.

Some nouns have a plural form and take a plural verb.

Examples:

trousers → My *trousers are* too tight.

jeans → Her *jeans are* black.

glasses → Those *glasses are* his.

others include:

savings, thanks, steps, stair, customs, congratulations,

tropics, wages, spectacles, outskirts, goods, wits

Exercices

A) Change each of the singular nouns below into plural nouns.

1. Book: _____
2. Table: _____
3. Day: _____
4. Car: _____
5. Watch: _____
6. Fox: _____
7. Glass: _____
8. Quiz: _____
9. Class: _____
10. Bus: _____
11. Baby: _____
12. Body: _____
13. Monkey: _____
14. Party: _____
15. Dictionary: _____
16. City: _____



17. Calf: _____
18. Hoof: _____
19. Elf: _____
20. Dwarf: _____
21. Thief: _____
22. Loaf: _____
23. Tooth: _____
24. Child: _____
25. Man: _____
26. Person: _____
27. Foot: _____
28. Mouse: _____
29. Potato: _____
30. Goose: _____
31. Tomato: _____
32. House: _____
33. Cherry: _____
34. Moose: _____
35. Deer: _____
36. Ox: _____
37. Mosquito: _____

38. Sheep: _____

39. Hero: _____

40. Box: _____

Change the following sentences to singular.

1. Paws are to cats as feet are to humans:

2. Keys are to doors as passwords are to computers:

3. Girls are to boys as women are to men:

4. Geese are to flocks as dogs are to packs:

Form the plural of these irregular nouns



Child



Woman



Man



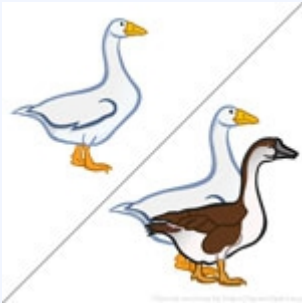
Foot



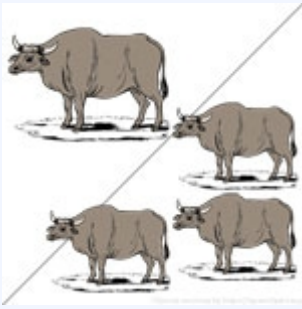
Tooth



Mouse



Goose



Ox



Louse



Person

NOUNS THAT ARE COUNTABLE AND UNCOUNTABLE

Please, make sentences with the following words in their countable and uncountable forms:

Time/times land/lands volume/volumes property/properties
technology/technologies

*e.g. paper - Oh no, the photocopier is out of paper
papers - Today, I signed the divorce papers.*

1) _____

2) _____



3)

4)

5)
