

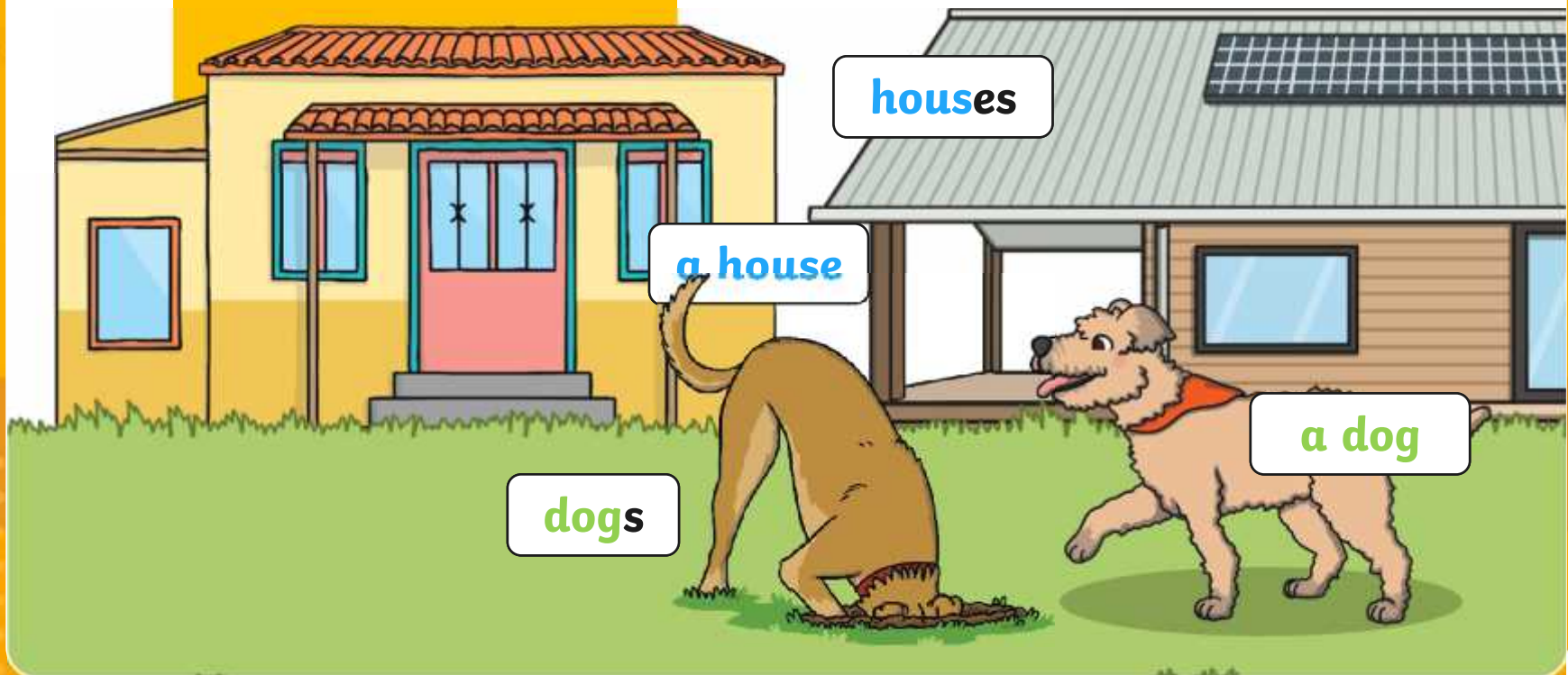
Making Singular Nouns Plural



Singular and Plural

The word **singular** means just one of something.

The word **plural** means more than one of something.



Singular and Plural

The word **singular** is very similar to **single**. This can help us remember the meanings of **singular** and **plural**.





Most singular nouns form the plural by adding **-s**.

Naomi's Notes

singular form

plural form

boat

boats

car

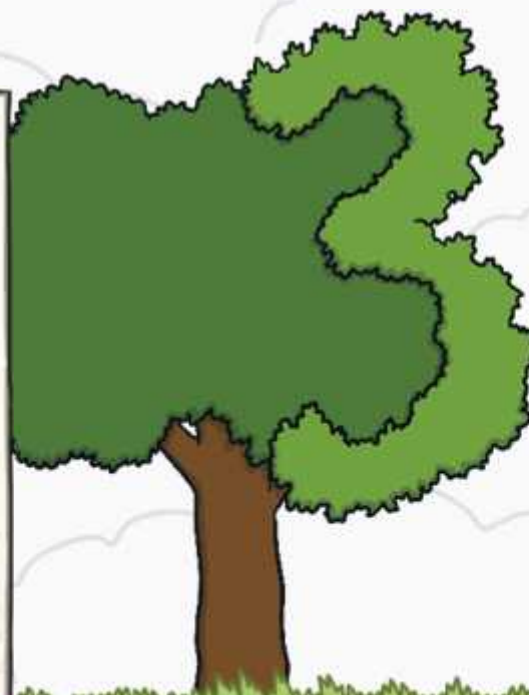
cars

house

houses

tree

trees





Singular nouns ending in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch' or 'sh' form the plural by adding **-es**.

Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
bus	buses
box	boxes
church	churches
wish	wishes



Try saying 'buss', 'boxs' or 'wishes' and you will see why nouns which end in a hissing sound use -es in the plural!



Singular nouns ending in a consonant and the letter 'y' form the plural by dropping the 'y' and adding **-ies**.

Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
penny	pennies
baby	babies
daisy	daisies
spy	spies





Singular nouns ending in a vowel and the letter 'y' form the plural by simply adding **-s**.

Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
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boy	boys
-----	------

boy	boys
-----	------

toy	toys
-----	------

toy	toys
-----	------

valley	valleys
--------	---------

valley	valleys
--------	---------

tray	trays
------	-------

tray	trays
------	-------



BUT...

So, most of the time, we make a plural noun by adding an -s, -es or -ies.

The English language has some irregular nouns in it. These are nouns that have their own special rules or spelling for making them into plurals.



Some singular nouns ending in 'o' form the plural by adding **-s**.

Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
piano	pianos
solo	solos
photo	photos
memo	memos
kilo	kilos
video	videos





But some singular nouns ending in 'o' form the plural by adding **-es!**

Naomi's Notes

singular form

plural form

potato

potatoes

hero

heroes

tomato

tomatoes

echo

echoes

torpedo

torpedoes

domino

dominoes





Nouns that end in 'f' or 'fe' usually form the plural by dropping the 'f' and adding **-ves**.

Naomi's Notes

singular form

plural form

thief

thieves

knife

knives

wife

wives

elf

elves

leaf

leaves





However, some nouns that end in 'f' form the plural by simply adding -s.

Naomi's Notes

singular form

plural form

cliff

cliffs

earmuff

earmuffs

foodstuff

foodstuffs

cuff

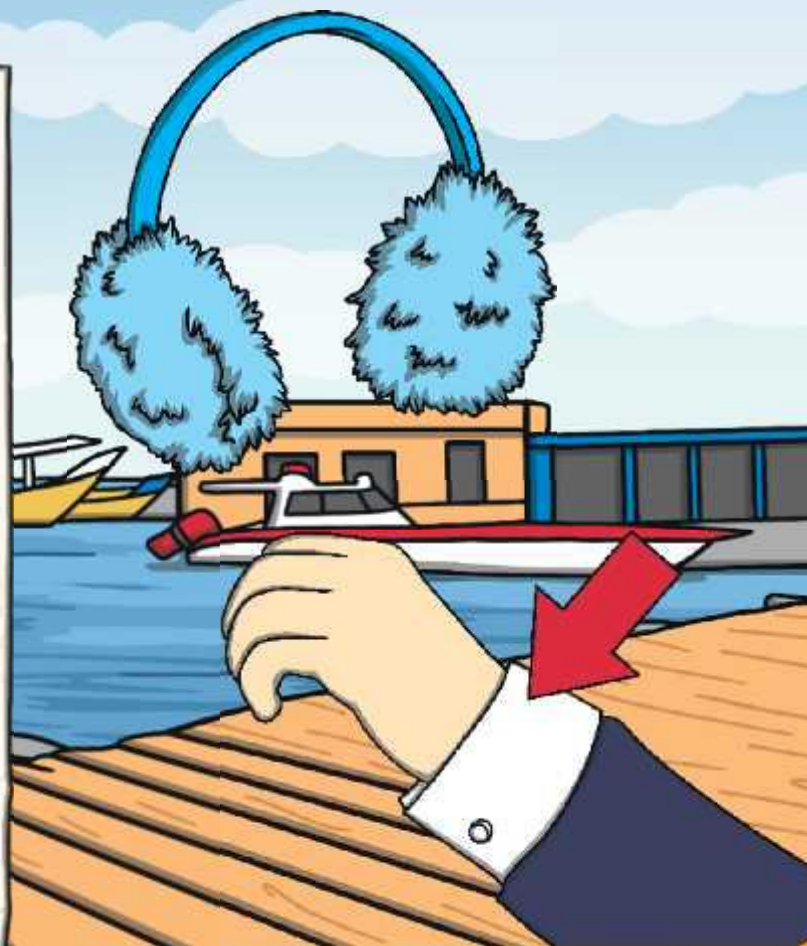
cuffs

playoff

playoffs

roof

roofs



If you can hear the sound 'f' in the plural noun, you probably spell the plural form with an 'f'.

Naomi's Nouns

singular form	plural form
cliff	cliffs
	puffs

If you can hear a 'v' sound, then you will probably need to use a -ves plural.

cuff	wives	cuffs
playoff	lives	playoffs
roof		roofs





Some tricky nouns are the same in the singular and the plural forms.



Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
sheep	sheep
fish	fish
deer	deer
aircraft	aircraft
species	species



Pairs of things usually only have a plural form.



jeans

The singular form is not '**jean**'. It is a '**pair of jeans**'.

Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
sheep	sheep
fish	fish
deer	deer
aircraft	aircraft
species	species



Pairs of things usually only have a plural form.

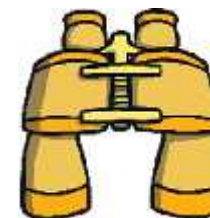


jeans

The singular form is not 'jean'. It is a 'pair of jeans'.



scissors



binoculars



trousers



glasses

Words from Other Languages

Many English nouns have been taken from other languages. These words behave differently.

The plurals are formed as they would be in the original language.

denim

French

karaoke

Japanese

waltz

German

bonus

Latin

Some nouns in this group can also use an English plural **-s** or **-es**. These nouns are shown in the following slides.





Singular Greek and Latin nouns ending in 'a' add an **-e** to form the plural.



Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form	English plural form
larva	larvae	
alga	algae	
formula	formulae	formulas
antenna	antennae	antennas



Singular Greek and Latin nouns ending in 'is' change it to **-es** to form the plural.



Naomi's Notes

sin

fo

la

a

for

ant

singular form

plural form

analysis

analyses

crisis

crises

oasis

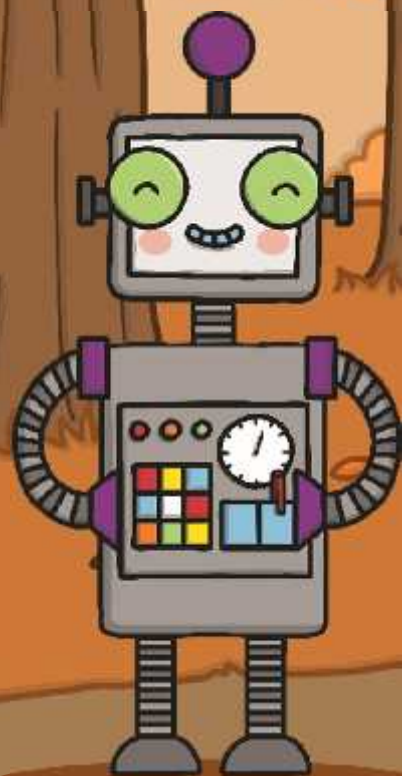
oases

diagnosis

diagnoses



Singular Greek nouns ending in 'on' change it to **-a** to form the plural.



Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
crit ^{er} ion	crit ^{er} ia
phenom ^{en} on	phenom ^{en} a
automat ^{on}	automat ^a



Singular Latin nouns ending in 'ix' or 'ex' use **-ices** to form the plural.

Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form	English plural form
index	indices	indexes
appendix	appendices	appendixes
matrix	matrices	matrixes

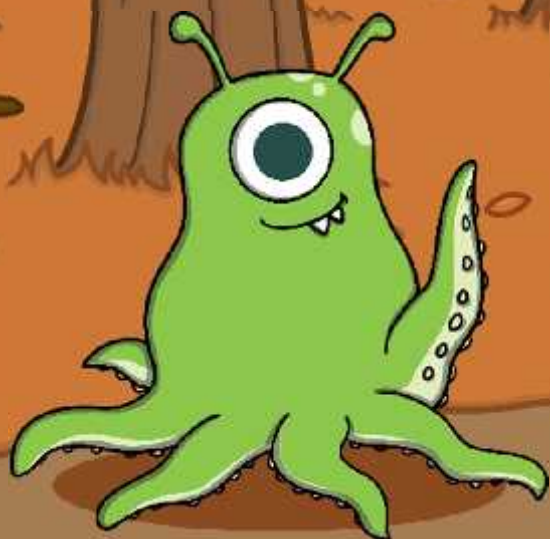




Singular Latin nouns ending in 'um' use **-a** to form the plural.

Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form	English plural form
datum	data	
bacterium	bacteria	
stadium	stadia	stadiums
curriculum	curricula	curriculum





Most singular Latin nouns ending in 'us' change to **-i** to form the plural.

Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form	English plural form
fungus	fungi	funguses
octopus	octopi	octopuses
cactus	cacti	cactuses
focus	foci	focuses



Singular French nouns ending in 'eau' or 'eu' add **-x** to form the plural.



Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
chateau	chateaux
gateau	gateaux



Singular Italian nouns ending in 'o' change to -i to form the plural.



Naomi's Notes

singular form	plural form
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virtuoso	virtuosi
----------	----------

graffito	graffiti
----------	----------

paparazzo	paparazzi
-----------	-----------



Some nouns are completely irregular and do not follow any of these patterns.

Naomi's Notes

singular form

plural form

virtuoso

virtuosi

graffito

graffiti

paparazzo

paparazzi



Some nouns are completely irregular and do not follow any of these patterns.

Naomi's Notes

These plurals are called mutated (or mutating) plurals.

singular form	plural form
foot	feet
child	children
person	people
tooth	teeth
mouse	mice



woman

women

The **plural** form of women is not 'womans'.

Making Singular English Nouns Plural

singular form

boat

bus

penny

piano

domino

thief

cliff

sheep

trousers

die

foot

person

to form the plural...

add -s

add -es

drop **y**, add -ies

add -s

add -es

drop **f**, add -ves

add -s

do nothing

do nothing

change the word

change the word

change the word

plural form

boats

buses

pennies

pianos

dominoes

thieves

cliffs

sheep

trousers

dice

feet

people

Making Singular Nouns from Other Languages Plural

singular form

larva

formula

analysis

phenomenon

index

stadium

fungus

chateau

graffito

to form the plural...

add **-e**

add **-e** or **-s**

change **-i** to an **-e**

drop **-on**, add **-a**

drop **-x**, add **-ices**, or add **-s**

drop **-um**, add **-a**, or add **-s**

drop **-us**, add **-i**, or add **-es**

add **-x**

change **-o** to **-i**

plural form

larvae

formulae/formulas

analyses

phenomena

indices/indexes

stadia/stadiums

fungi/funguses

chateaux

graffiti

How much do you remember about plural nouns?

1

What is the plural form of 'cuff'?

a

cuffes

b

cuff

c

cuves

d

cuffs

▶ Next

Correct!
Well done!

How much do you remember about plural nouns?

2

What is the plural form of 'sheep'?

a

sheeps

b

sheepes

c

sheep

d

sheepies

▶ Next



ICorrect!

Well done!

How much do you remember about plural nouns?

3

What is the plural form of 'piano'?

a

pianos

b

pianoes

c

pianers

d

pians

▶ Next



Incorrect!

Well done!

How much do you remember about plural nouns?

4

What is the plural form of 'scissors'?

a scissorses

b scissers

c scissors

d scissorries

▶ Next

Correct!

Well done!



How much do you remember about plural nouns?

5

What is the plural form of 'foot'?

a

feet

b

feets

c

foot

d

foots



Finish

Correct!

Well done!



