

LESSON 7**Singular and Plural Nouns**

Nouns that represent one person, place, idea, or thing are called **singular nouns**. Nouns that represent more than one person, place, idea, or thing are called **plural nouns**.

Most nouns can be made plural simply by adding *-s* to the end of the word. The spelling of some nouns changes slightly when the words are made plural, depending on how the word ends.

EXAMPLES**plural nouns**

For most nouns, to form the plural add *-s* to the end of the word.

voyage → voyages taxi → taxis monkey → monkeys
cliff → cliffs zoo → zoos

If a noun ends in *s*, *sh*, *ch*, *x*, or *z*, add *-es*.

arch → arches tax → taxes dish → dishes
church → churches waltz → waltzes

For some nouns ending in *o* preceded by a consonant, add *-es*.

hero → heroes potato → potatoes mosquito → mosquitoes

If a noun ends in *y* preceded by a consonant, change the *y* to *i* and add *-es*.

baby → babies worry → worries
lady → ladies flurry → flurries

For some nouns that end in *f* or *fe*, change the *f* to *v* and add *-es* or *-s*.

thief → thieves life → lives
leaf → leaves wife → wives

EXERCISE 1**Identifying Singular and Plural Nouns in Literature**

Write the twelve nouns in the following literature passage. Label each noun as either singular or plural.

The crazy thing about the whole evacuation was that we were all loyal Americans. Most of us were citizens because we had been born here. But our parents, who had come from Japan, couldn't become citizens because there was a law that prevented any Asian from becoming a citizen. Now everybody with a Japanese face was being shipped off to concentration camps.

*from "The Bracelet," page 150
Yoshiko Uchida*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

EXERCISE 2

Understanding Plural Nouns

Write the plural form of each of the following singular nouns. You may need to use a dictionary to check your answers.

1. concerto _____
2. mass _____
3. traveler _____
4. donkey _____
5. wish _____
6. idea _____
7. photo _____
8. marsh _____
9. alley _____
10. bus _____
11. echo _____
12. discovery _____
13. mile _____
14. community _____
15. tattoo _____
16. station _____
17. fox _____

18. strawberry _____

19. hoax _____

20. mouse (animal) _____

EXERCISE 3

Correcting Plural Nouns

One plural noun in each numbered line is misspelled. Write the misspelled word correctly.

1. boxs churches girls patios

2. toys bookes armies birches

3. tides babys attorneys computers

4. soloes potatoes crashes autos

5. seas sandwiches photoes kisses

6. giggles buzzs proofs operations

7. rodeoes knives shelves laughs

8. species clothes elfs lunches

9. cameos diseases beliefs heros

10. vegetables cameras taxis annexs

EXERCISE 4

Using Singular and Plural Nouns in Your Writing

Imagine that you have won a contest, and the prize is ten minutes of free shopping in any store of your choice. Write a paragraph describing the experience. Be sure to name the kind of store, such as a supermarket or sporting goods shop, and describe its layout. Then describe the kinds of things you will try to collect within the ten minutes. Use at least five singular and five plural nouns in your paragraph.
