

English Grammar – Plurals

1. Regular plurals

Add "s" (98% of words)	Add "es" (end 's', 'x', 'h', 'o')	Change "y" to "ies"	Change "f/fe" to "ves"
houses	bus → buses	baby → babies	wife → wives
employers	lens → lenses	story → stories	knife → knives
computers	kiss → kisses	family → families	shelf → shelves
boys	box → boxes	ability → abilities	thief → thieves
managers	fox → foxes	strategy → strategies	life → lives
meetings	church → churches	dictionary → dictionaries	half → halves
skills	potato → potatoes	<u>Exception:</u>	
dollars	tomato → tomatoes	vowel before 'y'	
commitments		(ex. boy → boys)	

2. Irregular plurals

a) No change:

fish → **fish**, sheep → **sheep**, deer → **deer**, moose → **moose**, aircraft → **aircraft**

b) Vowel changes:

tooth → **teeth**, foot → **feet**, goose → **geese**, man → **men**, woman → **women**

c) Word changes:

mouse → **mice**, child → **children**, person → **people**, penny → **pence** (UK),
die → **dice**

d) Always plural:

pants, scissors, glasses/sunglasses, pliers, shorts, shears, news

Exercise. Complete the sentences with the correct plurals:

1. What _____ do you like? (*sport*)
2. I like _____, but I don't like _____. (*cat, mouse*)
3. A: Do you have _____? (*child*)
B: Yes, two _____ and three _____. (*boy, girl*)
4. Do you think that _____ drive better than _____? (*man, woman*)
5. A: Do you like _____? (*baby*) B: Yes, I do.
6. Doctors save many _____. (*life*)
7. Brazil has many _____. (*church*)
8. In England, _____ eat _____ every day! (*person, potato*)