

PLURAL NOUNS IN ENGLISH

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Annotation: *How can you properly add the plural ending to English nouns that don't form the plural according to the rules? This and other information will be included in this article.*

Key words: *singular, plural, derived nouns, compound nouns, exception, vowel, consonant.*

English nouns can be singular or plural, as you are likely aware. In English, two or more items are indicated by using the plural form of the noun.

In contrast to Russian, English's rules for plural formation do not call for learning a large number of endings, alternating vowels, or omitting consonants. There are, however, exceptions and peculiarities of use, just like in any other language.

As you are aware, there are significantly more countable than uncountable nouns in the English language. English nouns that may be counted can be singular or plural.

- The singular number is used to refer to one thing: a book, a pen, a ball.

- The plural means that there is more than one item: two, three, four, many, few, etc: two books, four pens, seven balls.

To correctly use a noun in the plural, you need to know the rules of formation, which are not so many.

1. In general, in English, the ending **-s** is added to the noun in order to form the plural of the noun.

A pen – pens

A book – books

A letter – letters

A friend – friends

A room – rooms

A chair – chairs

2. If the noun ends with such sounds as: **-s, -ss, -x, -ch, -sh, -z\`o** then the ending **-es** is added to the noun.

A bus – busses

A dress – dresses

A dish – dishes

A buzz – buzzes

A box – boxes

A match – matches

A potato – potatoes

A tomato – tomatoes

But there is an exception for words: *pianos, photos, kilos, radios, zoos, videos...* Since they are words borrowed from other languages.

3. Ending **-es** after **-y** in plural.

• If a noun in the singular ends in a consonant **+ y**, then in the plural the letter **-y** is changed to **-i** and the ending **-es** is added.

A baby – babies

An army – armies

A lady – ladies

A city – cities

• If there is a vowel before **-y**, then the plural is formed according to the general rule: the ending **-s** is added, and the letter **-y** does not change to **-i**.

A boy – boys

A key – keys

A day – days

A tray – trays

4. Nouns that end in **-f**, **-fe** in the singular form the plural by changing **-f** to **-v** and adding the ending **-es**, **-s**.

A shelf – shelves

A leaf – leaves

A knife – knives

A wife – wives

A wolf – wolves

A loaf – loaves

✓ However, there are a few nouns that do not fall under this rule: they do not change the letter **-f** to **-v** and only add the ending **-s**.

A chief – chiefs

A cuff – cuffs

A belief – beliefs

A roof – roofs

A cliff – cliffs

A handkerchief –

handkerchiefs

5. Exception words. The plural is formed with change in the root vowels.

A man – men

A goose – geese

A woman – women

A mouse – mice

A foot – feet

A tooth – teeth

6. There are some nouns that do not change the form of the singular in the plural, the pronunciation does not change either.

A sheep – sheep

A cod – cod

A deer – deer

A moose – moose

A swine – swine

A squid – squid

7. In the plural, the ending **-en**, **-ren** is added instead of **-s**, sometimes with a change in the root vowel.

A child – children

An ox – oxen

A brother –

brotheren

8. In derived nouns, the ending **-s** is added to the main part

A mother in law – mothers in law

A tooth brush – tooth

brushes

A brother in law – brothers in law
by

A passer by – passers

9. In compound nouns that are written together, only the second word usually takes the plural form.

A policeman – policemen
chessmen

A chessman –

A snowman – snowmen
housewives

A housewife –

10. If the first element is man/ woman , then both parts will change in the plural.

A woman-writer – women-writers
servants

A woman-servant – women-

A man-doctor – men-doctors
farmers

A gentleman-farmer – gentlemen-

11. If there are no nouns in a compound noun, that is, it consists of verbs, particles or adjectives, then the ending -s, as a rule, is added to the last element.

A forget-me-not - forget-me-nots

A drop-out - drop-outs

12. The nouns gate, sledge, watch, clock in English can be used in the singular and plural.

The gate is opened.

All the gates are opened.

I've got a watch/a clock.

These watches/clocks are expensive.

English has a variety of plural noun endings. Despite the complexity of the rules and several exceptions, the main rule is typically followed to produce the plural, which is to add the -s.

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