

Plurals

1. Regular plurals

Unlike many other languages, English only uses **plural forms** for nouns and pronouns. The **regular** plural form just adds an “s” to the singular and, depending on the structure of the word in question, it sometimes requires “ies”.

Examples :

- A train – Two trains
- A book – Two books
- A house – Two houses
- A day – Two days
- A week – Two weeks
- A month – Two months

Nouns ending in a consonant + Y:

- A baby – Two babies
- A lady – Two ladies
- A penny – Two pennies
- A pony – Two ponies

2. Irregular plurals

There are quite a few irregular plurals in English. The list below gives some examples.

Some words ending in **f** : => The “f” becomes “v” and “es” is added.

- A loaf – Two loaves
- A half – Two halves
- A leaf – Two leaves
- A calf – Two calves
- A hoof – Two hooves (or hoofs)

Some words ending in fe : The “fe” becomes “ve” and an “s” is added.

- A wife – Two wives
- A life – Two lives

- A knife – Two knives

Some words ending in consonant + o : “es” is added.

- A potato – Two potato**es**
- A tomato – Two tomato**es**
- A volcano – Two volcano**es**
- A mosquito – Two mosquito**es**
- An echo – Two echo**es**

Others words taken from foreign languages or from the original Latin :

- An octop**us** – Two octop**pi**
- A criteri**on** – Two criteri**a**
- An analys**is** – Two analys**es**
- A radi**us** – Two radi**ii**

More common, everyday irregular plurals :

- A foot – Two **fee**
- A tooth – Two **teeth**
- A child – Two **children**
- A man – Two **men**
- A woman – Two **women**
- A person – Two **people**
- A mouse – Two **mice**

No change between singular and plural :

- A sheep – Two **sheep**
- A fish – Two **fish**
- A deer – Two **deer**
- A salmon – Two **salmon**

3. Remark

Please note :

Adjectives used to describe **nouns** do not take any plural form.

- A big dog – Two **big dogs**
- A left foot – Two **left feet**
- A tall man – Two **tall men**