

NOUNS AND THEIR PLURALS

A **NOUN** is a word that names *a person, a place, a thing, or an abstraction*.

Nouns name **persons**: boy, Maria engineer, hero, villain, nurse, Jamaican, Floridian

Nouns name **places**: river, Orlando, Empire State Building, village, airport

Nouns name **things**: door, movie, button, cookie, limousine, Egyptology

Nouns name **abstractions**: fatigue, ethics, trouble, freedom, shame, beauty

[note that the nouns that name specific persons are proper nouns, so they are capitalized]

SIGNAL WORDS tell you whether a noun should be singular or plural.

SINGULAR SIGNAL WORDS

a, an

a single

another

each

every

one

*A tall **man** entered the room with **an elephant**.*

*Darius is desperately seeking **a single woman** to marry.*

*Today is just **another dull day** at work.*

***Each applicant** for the job entered the room smiling.*

*We go to church **every Sunday**.*

*The couple reviewed **one** wedding **photo** after another.*

PLURAL SIGNAL WORDS

all

both

few

many

most

several

some

two (or more)

***All students** must go to the registrar's office.*

*Mr. Smith gave **both children** ten dollars each.*

***A few hikers** got lost on Mount Miami.*

*I have been to the Miami Seaquarium **many times**.*

***Most houses** on this street are painted white.*

*The police spoke to **several witnesses** about the accident.*

***Some people** have all the luck.*

*At least **three individuals** ran from the building.*

SIGNAL WORDS (either singular or plural) FOLLOWED BY **OF** REQUIRE A PLURAL NOUN

***One of the books** was missing a page.*

***A few of the books** were missing pages.*

NOUNS FORM THEIR PLURALS IN SEVERAL WAYS

- **most nouns** form their plurals by adding *s*
idea - ideas // Smith - Smiths // error - errors // shape - shapes
- nouns that **end in an -s sound** (*s, sh, ch, tch, x, z*) form their plural by add *es*
bus - buses // church - churches // Jones - Joneses // fox - foxes // waltz - waltzes // bush - bushes
- nouns that end in **consonant-y** change the *y* to *i* and add *es*
story - stories // baby - babies // family - families
- nouns that end in **vowel-y** simply add *s*
boy - boys // donkey - donkeys // display - displays

- **irregular nouns** change their basic spelling pattern to form the plural
man - men // woman - women // child - children // foot - feet // tooth - teeth // goose - geese // crisis - crises // criterion - criteria // medium - media // memorandum - memoranda // phenomenon - phenomena //
 - some nouns **stay the same** in the singular and plural
moose - moose // deer - deer // sheep - sheep // elk - elk // fish - fish // shrimp - shrimp
 - nouns that end in **f or fe** (not *ff*) usually change the *f* to *v* and add *es*
calf - calves // self - selves // knife - knives // shelf - shelves // wife - wives // wolf - wolves
exceptions: roof - roofs // chief - chiefs // belief - beliefs // reef - reefs // proof - proofs // chef - chefs
 - nouns that are **hyphenated** add *s* or *es* to the main word
mother-in-law - mothers-in-law // attorney-general - attorneys-general // passer-by - passers-by
 - nouns that end **vowel-o** usually just add *s* to form the plural
zoo - zoos // rodeo - rodeos // patio - patios
 - nouns that end in **consonant-o** usually add *es* to form their plural
echo - echoes // hero - heroes // tomato - tomatoes // potato - potatoes
 exceptions are the **music words**, which only add *s*
pianos // radios // sopranos // solos // altos // trios
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Directions: Fill in the correct singular or plural form of the noun in parentheses.

1. The little boy waved two tiny U.S. _____ . (flag)
2. Nguyen tried four different _____ on his floor. (wax)
3. She finally chose one _____ for the front door. (latch)
4. In the distance, he saw another _____ of light. (flash)
5. To complete ENC 0020, a student has to write four _____. (essay)
6. Two _____ are situated near my home. (library)
7. My boss needs five _____ of this page. (copy)
8. Give another _____ to the toddler over there. (toy)
9. How many _____ are working in Los Angeles? (attorney)
10. I have seen several _____ cross the road. (deer)
11. He is just one of five _____. (man)
12. In the mountains, the _____ turn beautiful colors in the fall. (leaf)
13. He visited all the _____ (cliff) in Dover, England.
14. In their homes, the people gathered on their _____. (patio)