

UNIT 1

Plurals/Countables-Uncountables

Plural Number

◆ Most nouns form their plural by adding **-s**.



a car

two cars

◆ Nouns ending in **-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, -o**, take **-es** in the plural:

bus - buses, dress - dresses, brush - brushes, torch - torches, box - boxes, etc.



a tomato

two tomatoes

But some nouns ending in **-o** take only **-s**.

radio - radios, piano - pianos, photo - photos, rhino - rhinos, hippo - hippos, video - videos, etc.

◆ Nouns ending in a **vowel + y** take **-s** in the plural.



a boy

two boys

◆ Nouns ending in a **consonant + y**, drop the **-y** and take **-ies** in the plural.

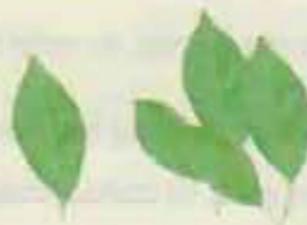


a strawberry



three strawberries

◆ Nouns ending in **-f** or **-fe**, drop the **f** or **-fe** and take **-ves** in the plural.



a leaf

four leaves



a wolf

two wolves

But some nouns ending in **-f** or **-fe** take only **-s**.

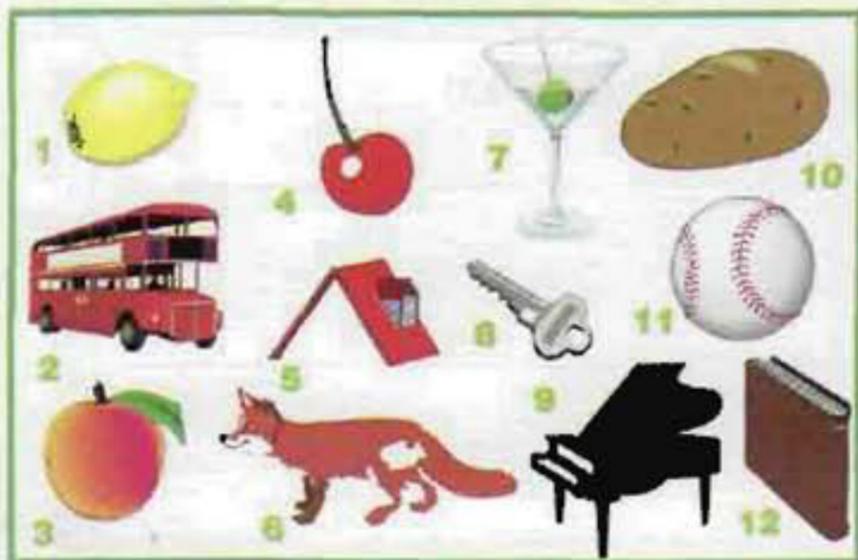
roof - roofs, giraffe - giraffes, cliff-cliffs, etc.

◆ Adjectives do not take **-s** in the plural.



a happy girl

two happy girls



1

Write the plural.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 lemon ... <i>lemons</i> ... | 7 glass |
| 2 bus | 8 key |
| 3 peach | 9 piano |
| 4 cherry | 10 potato |
| 5 roof | 11 ball |
| 6 fox | 12 book |

Irregular Plurals

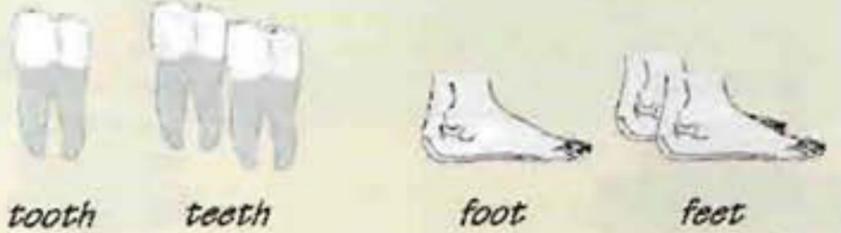
Some nouns are irregular. For example:



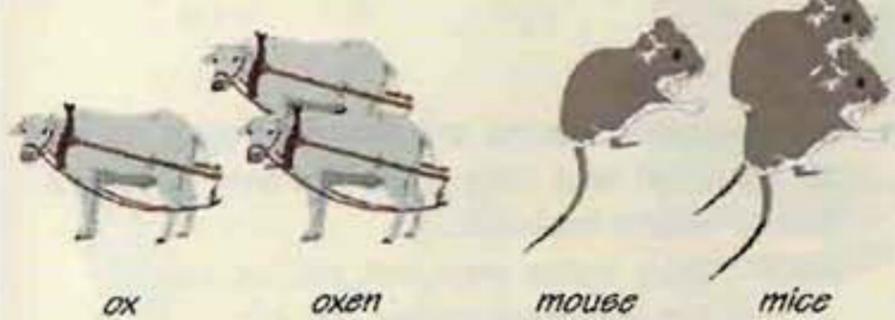
child children man men



woman women goose geese



tooth teeth foot feet



ox oxen mouse mice

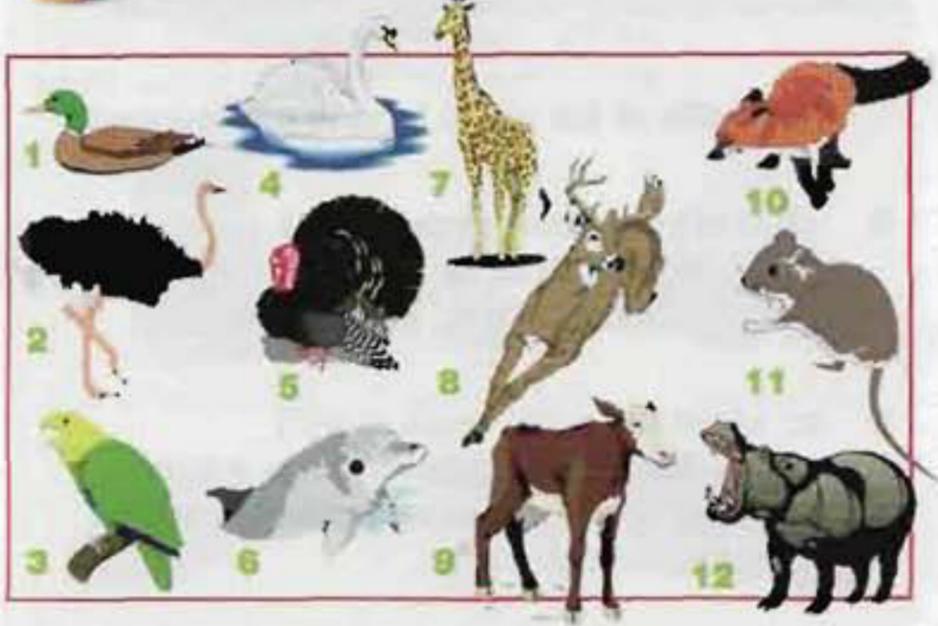


sheep sheep deer deer

2 Write the plural.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 sheep ... <i>sheep</i> ... | 11 policeman |
| 2 baby | 12 raspberry |
| 3 child | 13 sandwich |
| 4 green leaf | 14 mouse |
| 5 old lady | 15 photo |
| 6 radio | 16 cliff |
| 7 ox | 17 pen |
| 8 tall woman | 18 watch |
| 9 knife | 19 big foot |
| 10 toy | 20 nice book |

3 Write the plural.



- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 duck ... <i>ducks</i> ... | 7 giraffe |
| 2 ostrich | 8 deer |
| 3 parrot | 9 calf |
| 4 swan | 10 fox |
| 5 turkey | 11 mouse |
| 6 dolphin | 12 hippo |

4 Write the words in plural in the correct box.

bicycle, bus, cherry, knife, man, glass, child, house, apple, box, baby, ball, tomato, ferry, leaf, tooth, goose, radio, cliff, dress, torch, city, wife, ox, deer, calf, fox, giraffe, watch, parrot, lady, wolf, dish, boy, woman, melon, sheep, armchair

-s	<i>bicycles,</i>
-es	<i>buses,</i>
-ies	<i>cherries,</i>
-ves	<i>knives,</i>
irregular	<i>men,</i>



Pronunciation

The suffix of the plural form is pronounced:

- ◆ /s/ when the noun ends in a(n) /t/, /k/, /p/, /t/ or /θ/ sound.
cliffs, books, shops, cats, myths, etc.
- ◆ /ɪz/ when the noun ends in a(n) /s/, /ks/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /z/ or /ʒ/ sound.
buses, foxes, brushes, torches, bridges, roses, mirages, etc.
- ◆ /z/ when the noun ends in any other sound.
rooms, boys, pears, leaves, lemons, pianos, etc.

5

First say the words in the plural, then write them in the correct box.

desk, church, apple, dolphin, chair, hat, baby, dress, bird, ball, cliff, box, radio, shirt, rose, dish, roof, song, skirt, cherry, fox, bag, clock, glass, piano, onion, basket, bush, ferry, cage, key, myth, bus, flower, door, orange

/s/ desks,

/ɪz/ churches,

/z/ apples,



Countable-Uncountable Nouns

- ◆ **Countable nouns** are nouns which can be counted (e.g. *one apple, two apples, etc.*) and can be in the singular or the plural. We put **a** before the noun in the singular when it begins with a consonant sound (b, d, p, etc.) and **an** when it begins with a vowel sound (a, e, i, o, u).



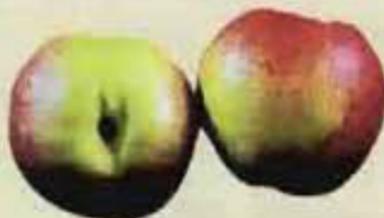
a flower



three flowers



an apple



two apples

- ◆ **Uncountable nouns** are nouns which cannot be counted and they usually have no plural. These nouns include:

food: *cheese, butter, meat, salt, pepper, bacon, bread, chocolate, honey, jam, etc.*

liquids: *coffee, milk, water, tea, wine, lemonade, petrol, oil, etc.*

materials: *gold, iron, silver, wood, paper, etc.*

abstract nouns: *beauty, love, happiness, etc.*

others: *hair, money, news, snow, furniture, weather, advice, etc.*

- ◆ We use **some** with uncountable nouns and not **a/an**.

We also use **some** with countable nouns but only in the plural.



some cheese
~~not: a cheese~~



some bananas