FORMS OF PLURAL NOUNS

Regular Nouns

Most singular nouns can become plural by just adding the letter –s or –es. These nouns are known as regular nouns.

Examples

- Car — cars
- Rose — roses
- Dog — dogs
- Church — churches
- Judge — judges
- Bus — buses

Irregular Nouns

Many nouns do not form their plurals by adding –s or –es, instead, they do so in a number of other ways. These nouns are known as *irregular nouns*.

1. Some irregular nouns change the vowel sound with the word.

Examples

- Man — men
- Foot — feet
- Woman — women

2. Some irregular nouns change the vowel sound within as well as the consonant s.

Example

- Mouse — mice

3. Some irregular nouns change the final y to ies.

Examples

- Country — countries
- City — cities

Note. Some words that have a final y usually have a vowel letter, before the final y. For words like this, their plural forms are formed simply by adding –s. For example, boy — boys

4. Some irregular nouns add –en or –ren

Examples

- Child — children
- Ox — oxen

5. Some irregular nouns change the final *f* or *fe* to *ve* and then add *s*.

Examples

- Knife — knives
- Wife — wives
- Leaf — leaves
- Loaf — loaves
- Half — halves

Note: some exceptions are cliff — cliffs, roof — roofs, dwarf — dwarfs, etc.

6. Some irregular nouns remain the same by not adding any ending.

Examples

- Sheep — sheep
- Deer — deer
- Aircraft — aircraft

7. Some irregular nouns are plurals and have no singular form.

Examples:

- Cattle
- Trousers
- Knickers
- Slippers
- Underwear
- Clothes
- Spectacles

- Scissors
- Pants

8. Some irregular nouns can add *–s/es* or do without them.

Example

- Fish or fishes