

Regular Plurals

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The general rule for plurals in the English language is to add an s to the end of the singular form of the noun. For singular words such as book, bed, car, chair or computer, add an s to indicate that you are speaking about two or more. These words simply become books, beds, cars, chairs and computers.

S, Ch, Tch and Sh Endings

For most singular nouns ending with s, ch, tch or sh, such as bus, class, glass; sandwich, match, switch; or crash, gash or wish, add an es at the end of the word to indicate plurality. This will add an extra syllable to the pronunciation of the word, so the singular of sandwich will have two syllables but the plural form sandwiches will have three.

Y Endings

Nouns ending with y such as cherry, city, country, hobby or lady have their own plural form. If a noun ends with a consonant and a y, the letter y becomes ies. The plural forms of cherry, city, country, hobby and lady are as follows: cherries, cities, countries, hobbies and ladies. However, the words valley, monkey and trolley don't follow this rule as they end with ey. The plural for such words follows the rules for regular nouns; their plural forms are valleys, monkeys and trolleys.

Note that the pronunciation changes with words that end in se or ce when you add an s to signify plurality. House has one syllable, while houses has two syllables; terrace has two syllables, while terraces has three. However, this is not the case with words that have a different letter before the e -- shoe becomes shoes, telescope becomes telescopes, rope becomes ropes, eye becomes eyes, all pronounced with the same number of syllables as their singular forms.

Stimulus-Response Activities

- The basic activity associated with singular-plural skills is this: given a singular, supply the plural. This format works for in-class activities, homework and tests. Learning starts with the general rule--add "s" to the singular to get the plural. Then come the exceptions like when adding "s" makes pronunciation difficult--the plural of "fox" is "foxes" because "foxs" would be difficult to pronounce. Then learning extends through cases where the singular and plural are the same--like deer. Then comes the cases where English uses foreign rules like "man" and "men." In every case the skill to be taught is the same--given the singular form, supply the plural form.

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Animals

- Using familiar references can help children learn. Most children are familiar with many types of animals and typically like animals. Take advantage of this familiarity and interest to **teach** pupils about noun plurals through references to animals. Plenty of animal names have regular noun plurals, such as goat and cow. Animals also provide irregular noun plurals, such as goose and mouse.

Surroundings

- A game teachers can play with pupils to help them learn plurals is to have the pupils point out items around them, such as a table, chair, bookshelf, blackboard and child. Then have the class determine how to form the plural of each word. The teacher can point out more difficult examples to introduce irregular noun plurals. This game allows pupils to apply plurals to objects they see every day.

Famous Nouns

- A similar game is to have pupils think of famous people, places and things. Then write the names down and have the pupils pluralize them. They may come up with items such as New York City, Disneyland, street, car or fish. Point out that proper nouns such as New York City need to be capitalized.

Thumbs Up and Thumbs Down

- The teacher writes a noun on the board and then writes a plural next to it, spelled correctly or misspelled. For example, you could write "goose" and, next to it, "gooses." Then have the pupils vote on whether the plural spelling is correct by putting their thumbs up or down.

Read more: [Activities for Teaching Singular & Plural Nouns | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/list_7728583_activities-teaching-singular-plural-nouns.html#ixzz1sUfLCSrT)
http://www.ehow.com/list_7728583_activities-teaching-singular-plural-nouns.html#ixzz1sUfLCSrT

Read more: [Plural Activities for Third Grade | eHow.com](http://www.ehow.com/info_7988001_plural-activities-third-grade.html#ixzz1sUh1dhDk)
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