



# Singular and Plural

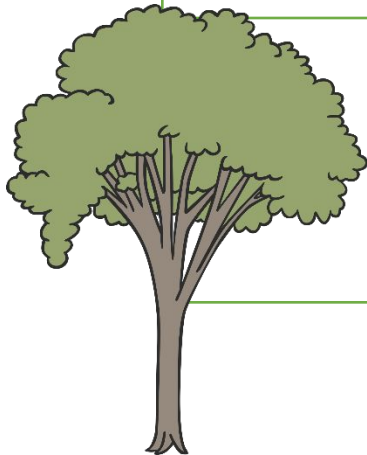
The word **singular** means just one of something, for example a house or a dog.

The word **plural** means more than one of something, for example houses or dogs.

The word **singular** is very similar to **single**. This can help us remember the meanings of **singular** and **plural**.

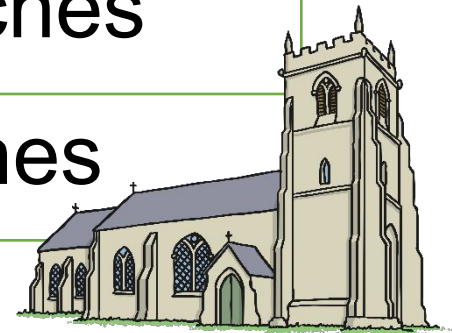
Most singular nouns form the plural by adding **-s**.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
boat	boats
car	cars
house	houses
tree	trees



# Singular nouns ending in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch' or 'sh' form the plural by adding **-es**.

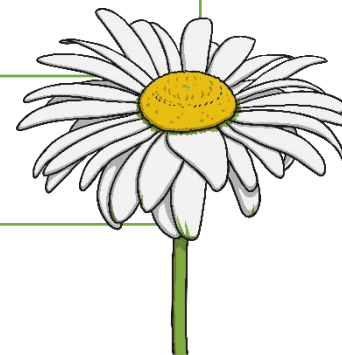
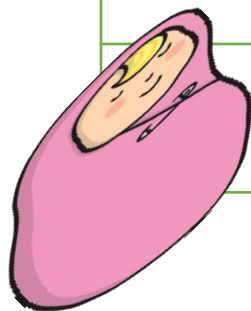
<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
bus	buses
box	boxes
church	churches
wish	wishes



Try saying 'buss', 'boxs' or 'wishes' and you will see why nouns which end in a hissing sound use **-es** in the plural!

Singular nouns ending in a consonant and the letter 'y' form the plural by dropping the 'y' and adding **-ies**.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
penny	pennies
baby	babies
daisy	daisies
spy	spies



Singular nouns ending in a vowel and the letter 'y' form the plural by simply adding **-s**.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
boy	boys
toy	toys
valley	valleys
tray	trays



So, most of the time, we make a plural noun by adding an **-s, -es or -ies.**

**BUT**

The English language has some rule-breaking nouns in it. These are **nouns that have their own special rules or spellings** for making them into plurals.

# Some singular nouns ending in 'o' form the plural by adding **-s**.

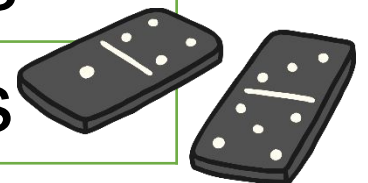
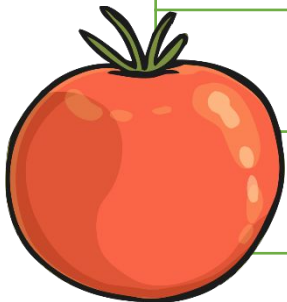
<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
piano	pianos
solo	solos
photo	photos
memo	memos
kilo	kilos
video	videos





But some singular nouns ending in 'o'  
form the plural by adding **-es!**

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
potato	potatoes
hero	heroes
tomato	tomatoes
echo	echoes
torpedo	torpedoes
domino	dominoes



Nouns that end in 'f' or 'fe' usually form the plural by dropping the 'f' and adding **-ves**.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
thief	thieves
knife	knives
wife	wives
elf	elves
leaf	leaves



However, some nouns that end in 'f' form the plural by simply adding **-s**.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
cliff	cliffs
earmuff	earmuffs
foodstuff	foodstuffs
cuff	cuffs
playoff	playoffs
roof	roofs

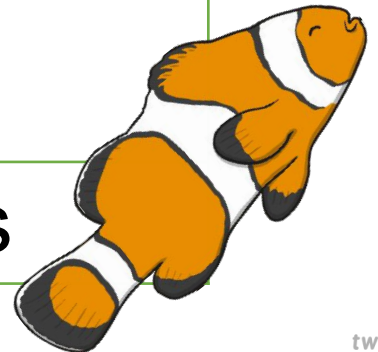
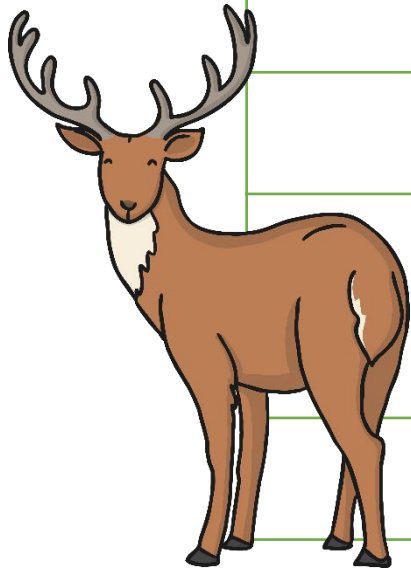


## Top Tip

If you can hear the sound 'f' in the plural noun (for example 'cliffs', you probably spell the plural form with an 'f'. If you can hear a 'v' sound (as in 'wives'), then you will probably need to use a **-ves** plural.

Some tricky nouns are the same in the singular and the plural forms.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
sheep	sheep
fish	fish
deer	deer
aircraft	aircraft
species	species



Pairs of things usually only have a plural form.

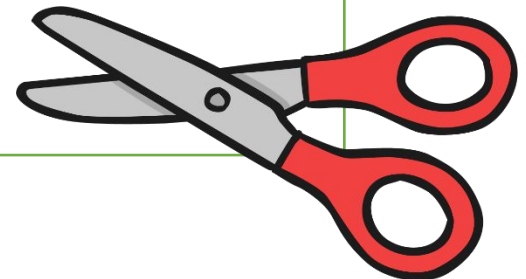
plural form

trousers

glasses

scissors

jeans



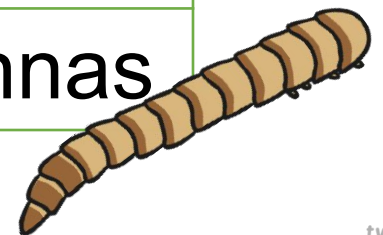
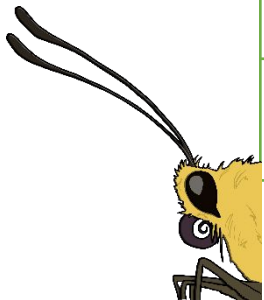
# Foreign Words

Many English nouns have been taken from other languages so they behave differently - the plurals are formed as they would be in the original language.

But some nouns in this group can also use an English plural **-s** or **-es**. These nouns are shown in the following slides.

# Singular Greek and Latin nouns ending in 'a' add an **-e** to form the plural.

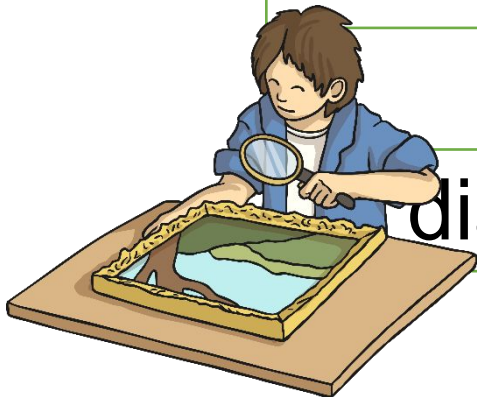
singular form	plural form	English plural form
larva	larvae	
alga	algae	
formula	formulae	formulas
antenna	antennae	antennas





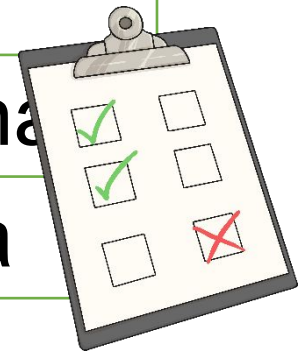
# Singular Greek and Latin nouns ending in 'is' change it to **-es** to form the plural

singular form	plural form
analysis	analyses
crisis	crises
oasis	oases
diagnosis	diagnoses



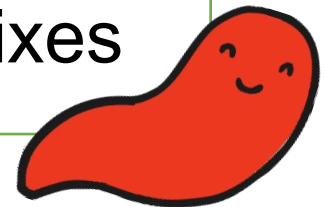
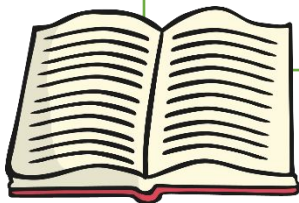
Singular Greek nouns ending in 'on' change it to **-a** to form the plural.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
crit <b>erion</b>	crit <b>eria</b>
phenom <b>enon</b>	phenom <b>ena</b>
automat <b>on</b>	automat <b>a</b>



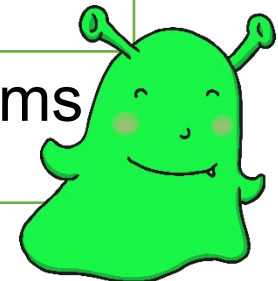
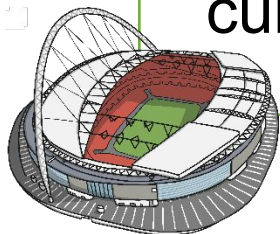
# Singular Latin nouns ending in 'ix' or 'ex' use **-ices** to form the plural.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>	<b>English plural form</b>
index	indices	indexes
appendix	appendices	appendixes
matrix	matrices	matrixes



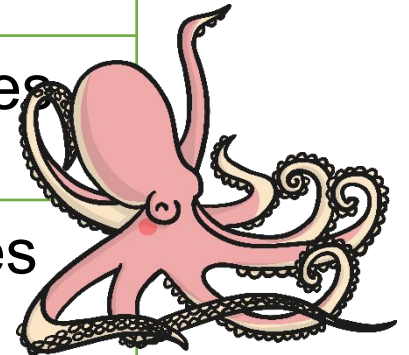
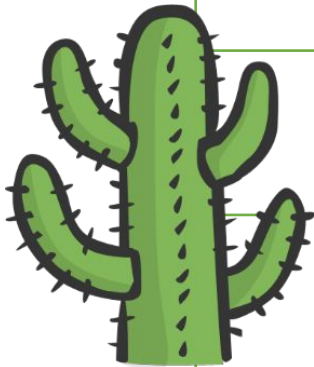
# Singular Latin nouns ending in 'um' use **-a** to form the plural.

<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>	<b>English plural form</b>
datum	data	
bacterium	bacteria	
stadium	stadia	stadiums
curriculum	curricula	curriculum




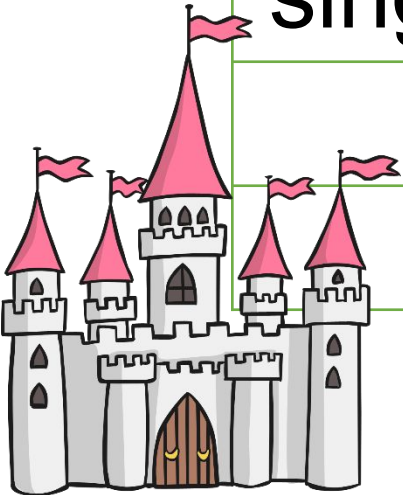
# Most singular Latin nouns ending in 'us' change to **-i** to form the plural.

singular form	plural form	English plural form
fungus	fungi	funguses
octopus	octopi	octopuses
cactus	cacti	cactuses
focus	foci	focuses



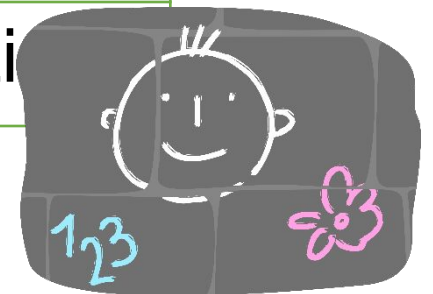
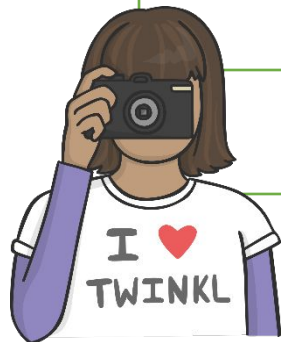
# Singular French nouns ending in 'eau' or 'eu' add **-x** to form the plural.

singular form	plural form
chateau	chateaux
gateau	gateaux



# Singular Italian nouns ending in 'o' change to **-i** to form the plural.

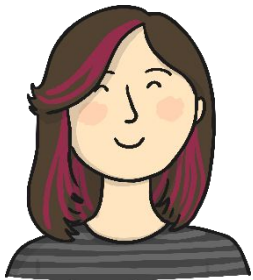
<b>singular form</b>	<b>plural form</b>
virtuoso	virtuosi
graffito	graffiti
paparazzo	paparazzi



Some nouns are completely irregular and do not follow any of these patterns.

These plurals are called mutated (or mutating) plurals.

For example:



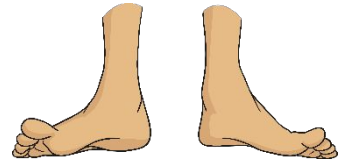
woman



women



foot

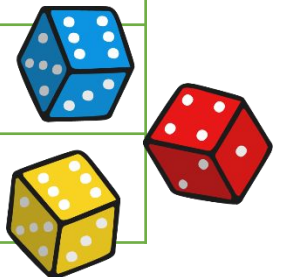
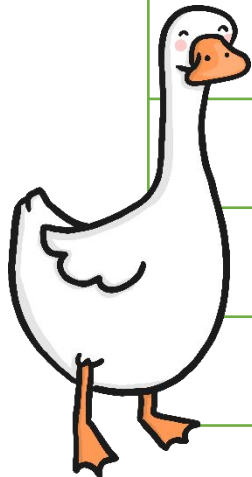


feet



# More Examples of Irregular (Mutated) Plural Nouns

singular form	plural form
man	men
child	children
tooth	teeth
die	dice
mouse	mice
goose	geese
person	people



# Making Singular English Nouns Plural

<b>singular form</b>	<b>To form the plural.....</b>	<b>plural form</b>
boat	add -s	boats
bus	add -es	buses
penny	drop y, add -ies	pennies
piano	add -s	pianos
domino	add -es	dominoes
thief	drop f, add -ves	thieves
cliff	add -s	cliffs
sheep	do nothing	sheep
trousers	do nothing	trousers
die	change the word	dice
foot	change the word	feet
person	change the word	people

# Making Singular Foreign Nouns Plural

<b>singular form</b>	<b>To form the plural.....</b>	<b>plural form</b>
larva	add -e	larvae
formula	add -e or -s	formulae/formulas
analysis	change -i to an -e	analyses
phenomenon	drop -on, add -a	phenomena
index	drop -x, add -ices, or add -s	indices/indexes
stadium	drop -um, add -a, or add -s	stadia/stadiums
fungus	drop -us, add -i, or add -es	fungi/funguses
chateau	add -x	chateaux
graffito	change -o to -i	graffiti

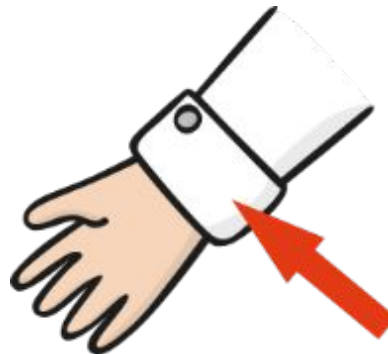
# What is the plural form of 'cuff' ?

A) cuffes

B) cuff

C) cuves

D) cuffs



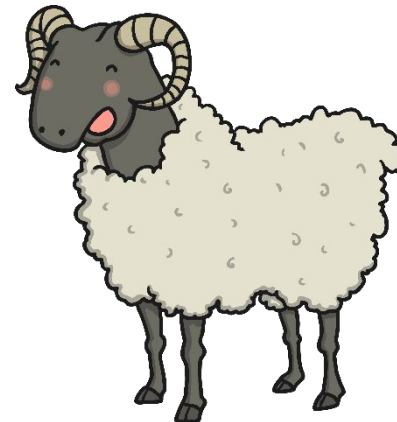
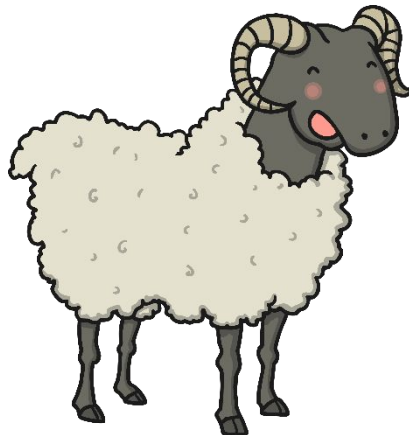
# What is the plural form of 'sheep' ?

A) sheeps

B) sheepes

C) sheep

D) sheepies



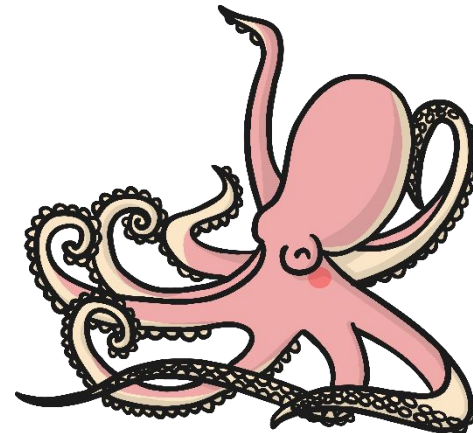
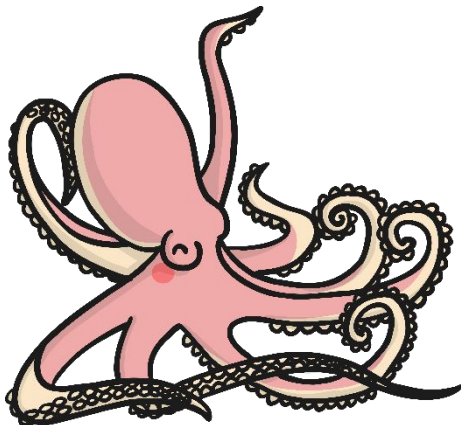
# What is the plural form of 'octopus' ?

A) octopi

B) octopusies

C) octopuses

D) octopusi



# Can you find the singular and plural noun pairs?



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click



click

