

LESSON 5

Singular and plural nouns

Rule 1. By adding -es to nouns ending in -ch, -s, -sh, -ss, -x, -z		
Singular	Plural	
dress	dress <u>es</u>	
Negro	Negro <u>es</u>	
box	box <u>es</u>	
dish	dish <u>es</u>	
watch	watch <u>es</u>	
buzz	buzz <u>es</u>	
Exceptions bamboos, kangaroos, radios, studios, zoos, Eskimos, kilos, photos, pianos, concertos...		

Rule 2. By adding -ies if the noun ends in -y preceded by a consonant		
Singular	Plural	
body	body <u>ies</u>	
lady	lady <u>ies</u>	
lorry	lorry <u>ies</u>	
baby	baby <u>ies</u>	

Rule 3. By adding -es if the noun ends in -f, -fe		
Singular	Plural	
thief	thief <u>es</u>	
wolf	wolf <u>es</u>	
half	half <u>es</u>	
wife	wif <u>es</u>	
Exceptions proofs, chiefs, safes, cliffs, gulfs, reefs...		

Rule 4. Nouns of Latin and Greek origin		
Singular	Plural	
man	men	
woman	women	
tooth	teeth	
foot	feet	
goose	geese	
mouse	mice	
louse	lice	
child	children	
ox	oxen	

Rule 5. Coincidence of singular and plural forms		
Singular	Plural	
sheep	sheep	
swine	swine	
deer	deer	
grouse	grouse	
series	series	
species	species	
corps	corps	

Rule 6. Plural names of some nationalities		
Singular	Plural	
a Chinese	The Chinese	
a Japanese	The Japanese	
a Portuguese	The Portuguese	
a Swiss	The Swiss	

Rule 7. Plural names of some nationalities		
Singular	Plural	
a Russian	The Russians	
an Azerbaijani	The Azerbaijanis	
an American	The Americans	

Rule 8. Plural nouns formed according to the rules of Greek or Latin languages		
Singular	Plural	
basis	bases	
crisis	crises	
phenomenon	phenomena	
stimulus	stimuli	
formula	formulae	
datum	data	
index	indices	

Rule 9. Admissibility plural formation according to the rules of English grammar		
Singular	Plural	
formula	formulas / formulae	
focus	focuses / foci	

Rule 10. Plural form of compound nouns		
Singular	Plural	
housewife	housewives	
schoolchild	schoolchildren	

Rule 11. Plural form of compound nouns with the first element man / woman		
Singular	Plural	
woman-writer	women-writers	
man-driver	men-drivers	

Rule 12. Plural form of compound nouns with a hyphen		
Singular	Plural	
mother-in-law	mothers-in-law	
hotel-keeper	hotel-keepers	
gas-mask	gas-masks	

Rule 13. If the compound word does not have a noun element		
Singular	Plural	
forget-me-not	forget-me-nots	
drop-out	drop-outs	
go-between	go-betweens	

Rule 14. Nouns used in singular only		
Singular	Plural	
gold	-	
silver	-	
oil	-	
music	-	
information	-	
progress	-	
knowledge	-	

Rule 15. Nouns used in plural only		
Singular	Plural	
-	scissors	
-	scales	
-	spectacles	
-	trousers	
-	The Netherlands	
-	customs	
-	outskirts	

-	goods	
-	contents	
-	clothes	
-	proceeds	
-	riches	

Rule 16. The names of some sciences with endings –ics, -s are used in the singular		
Singular	Plural	
physics	-	
mathematics	-	
phonetics	-	
linguistics	-	
news	-	
works	-	
barracks	-	

Rule 17. Plural form of such nouns like <i>dozen, score, hundred, thousand</i>		
Singular	Plural	
dozen	four dozen eggs, dozens of boxes	
score	scores of people	
hundred	hundreds of letters	
thousand	thousands of flowers	