

Nouns

1-kinds of noun in English

There are four kinds of noun in English:

**Common nouns*: man, cat

**Proper nouns*: Celine, France

**Abstract nouns*: beauty, fear

**Collective nouns*: team, group

2- Plurals

A- The plural of a noun is usually made by adding s to the singular:

E.g. day→ days house→ houses

Other plural forms

B- Nouns ending in o or ch, sh, ss or x form their plural by adding es:

E.g. tomato→ tomatoes church→ churches brush→ brushes kiss→ kisses

box→ boxes

But words of foreign origin or abbreviated words ending in o add s only:

E.g. photo→ photos piano→ pianos kilo→ kilos

C- Nouns ending in y following a consonant form their plural by dropping the y and adding ies: e.g. Country→ countries lady→ ladies

* Nouns ending in y following a vowel form their plural by adding s:

E.g. boy→ boys

day→ days

D-Twelve (12) nouns ending in **f** or **fe** drop the **f** or **fe** and add **ves**. These nouns *are calf, half, knife, leaf, life, loaf, self, sheaf, shelf, thief, wife, wolf.*

E.g. life→ lives wife→ wives

*The nouns *hoof, scarf* and *wharf* take either **s** or **ves** in the plural:

E.g. hoofs or hooves scarf or scarves wharfs or wharves

E-A few nouns form their plural by a vowel change:

E.g. foot→ feet man→ men mouse→ mice tooth→ teeth

woman→ women goose→ geese louse→ lice

*The plurals of *child* and *ox* are *children* and *oxen*.

F- Collective nouns, crew, family, team etc. can take a singular or plural verb; singular if we consider the word to mean a single group or unit: e.g. our team is the best.

or plural if we take it to mean a number of individuals: e.g. our team are wearing their new jerseys.

G- Compound nouns:

1-Normally the last word is made plural: e.g. boy-friend→ boy-friends

2- The first word is made plural with compounds formed of **noun+preposition+noun**. e.g. sisters- in- law.

3- Uncountable nouns (also known as non-count nouns or mass nouns)

**Names of substances* considered generally: e.g. bread, cream, oil

**Abstract nouns*: e.g. advice, beauty, courage, fear

Uncountable nouns are always singular and are not used with a/an: e.g. I don't want (any) advice or help. I want (some) information.

These nouns are often preceded by some, any, no, a little etc.

NB.

* Many of the nouns in the above groups can be used in a particular sense and are then countable. They can take a/an in the singular and can be used in the plural; for example, hair (all the hair on one's head) is considered uncountable, but if we consider each hair separately, we say one hair, two hairs etc.: her hair is black. Whenever she finds a grey hair she pulls it out.

* Some abstract nouns can be used in a particular sense with a/an:

a help

E.g. My children are a great help to me.

a knowledge + of:

E.g. He had a good knowledge of mathematics.

a love+of/ a dislike+ of

E.g. a love of music.

Exercise.

Give the plural of each word.

- 1- girl → girls
- 2- city → cities
- 3- box → boxes
- 4- tooth → teeth
- 5- life → lives