

How plurals are formed

Irregular Plural Nouns

Grade 10 – Unit 8



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What are noun plurals?

- As we know a plural noun indicates that there is more than one.

example: One dog (singular)

Three dogs (plural)

What are regular plurals?

- The plural of a noun is generally formed by adding **—s** or **—es** to the singular noun

Book



Books

Bag



Bags

Regular Plurals

- Nouns that end with **-ch, -x, -s, -ss -sh**, form their plurals by adding **-es** in the end.

Box –Boxes
Church- Churches
Gas-Gases
Bush-Bushes

- When most nouns end with a **CONSONANT+O** also form their plurals by adding **-es**

Potato-Potatoes
Hero-Heroes

Regular Plurals

- When the plural of words that ends with a **CONSONANT**+**-y** is spelled **-ies**.

Factory-Factories
Baby-Babies

- Most nouns ends in **-f** or **-fe** are changed to **-ves** to form plurals.

Calf-Calves
Knife-Knives
Leaf-Leaves

What are irregular plurals?

- Irregular plural noun is a noun that becomes plural by changing its spelling in other ways.
- For instance it is made plurals by changing vowels, changing the word ,or adding a different ending.
- Let's see how they are formed,
- Changing their vowels:-

Foot → Feet

Goose → Geese

Mouse → Mice

Woman → Women



Irregular Plurals

- Some nouns have the same singular and plural form.
- Aircraft → Aircraft
- Deer → Deer
- Fish → Fish
- Sheep → Sheep
- Species → Species



Irregular Plurals

- Many nouns taken from foreign languages like Latin, Greek, Italian, French and Hebrew keep their original plural form.
- From Greek
 - Axis- axes , Basis-bases , Analysis-analyses, Crisis-crises.
- From Latin
 - Index-indices, Formula-formulas, Memorandum-memoranda
- From Italian
 - Bandit-Banditti

Some more irregular plurals

Singular	Plural
Bureau	Bureaux
Diagnosis	Diagnoses
Octopus	Octopuses/octopi
Thesis	Theses
syllabus	Syllabuses/syllabi
Phenomenon	Phenomena
Tempo	Tempi
Larva	Larvae
Antenna	Antennae/Antennas

Irregular Plurals

- Finally let's have a look on plural forms of some compound nouns.
- Spoonful → Spoonfuls
- Passer-by → Passers-by
- By-way → By-ways
- Guest-of-honour → Guests-of-honour



Exercise I

Convert each singular noun to its irregular plural form.

- E.g.:- Criterion –criteria

1. Man-
2. Foot-
3. Tooth-
4. Index-
5. Fungus-
6. Cactus-
7. Axis-
8. Analysis-
9. Formula-
10. Series-
11. Bacterium-
12. Crisis-
13. Datum-
14. person-

(Feet, Axes, Fungi, Cacti, Crises, Indices, data, Bacteria, Analyses, People, Series, Formulae/Formulas, Indices, teeth, Men)

Exercise 2

- Underline the correct plural.
- **Parenthesis,**
 - I. Parentheses
 - II. Parenthis
 - III. Parenthiss
- **Phenomenon,**
 - I. Phenomenons
 - II. Phenomena
 - III. Phenomenonss
- **Critierion,**
 - I. Criteria
 - II. Criterian
 - III. Criterions
- **Memorandum,**
 - I. Memorandus
 - II. Memorandums
 - III. Memoranda



Answers Exercise I

1. Men
2. Feet
3. Teeth
4. Indices
5. Fungi
6. Cacti
7. Axes
8. Analyses
9. Formulae/Formulas
10. Series
11. Bacteria
12. Crises
13. Data
14. People

Answers

Exercise 2

Underline the correct plural.

- **Parenthesis,**

- I. Parentheses
- II. Parenthis
- III. Parenthiss

- **Phenomenon,**

- I. Phenomenons
- II. Phenomena
- III. Phenomenonss

- **Critierion,**

- I. Criteria
- II. Criterian
- III. Criterions

- **Memorandum,**

- I. Memorandus
- II. Memorandums
- III. Memoranda



Thank You!

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