

Irregular plural nouns

In English, there are hundreds of [nouns](#) that don't follow the standard rules for pluralization. There are no easy ways to remember them, so they generally have to be memorized.

Some of the rarer irregular plurals are often misused, leading to the creation of variant forms, which usually encounter resistance at first but eventually make it into the language. For example, the plural of *formula* has traditionally been *formulae*, but *formulas* is now far more common, and few would call it incorrect.

Latinate plurals

Some nouns have retained their plural forms from Latin and other languages:

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
addendum	addenda
alga	algae
alumnus	alumni
amoeba	amoebae
antenna	antennae
bacterium	bacteria
cactus	cacti
curriculum	curricula
datum	data
fungus	fungi
genus	genera
larva	larvae
memorandum	memoranda
stimulus	stimuli
syllabus	syllabi
vertebra	vertebrae

-o becoming -oes

Most nouns ending in -o are pluralized by adding an -s, but some take -es instead—for example:

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
echo	echoes
embargo	embargoes
hero	heroes

potato	potatoes
tomato	tomatoes
torpedo	torpedoes
veto	vetoes

Changing vowel sounds

Some nouns change their central vowel sounds when pluralized—for example:

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
foot	feet
goose	geese
louse	lice
man	men
mouse	mice
tooth	teeth
woman	women

-f becoming -ves

Some nouns ending in *-f* are pluralized by dropping the *-f* and adding *-ves*:

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
calf	calves
elf	elves
half	halves
hoof	hooves
knife	knives
leaf	leaves
life	lives
loaf	loaves
self	selves
shelf	shelves
thief	thieves
wife	wives
wolf	wolves

-is becoming -es

Some nouns ending in *-is* are pluralized by dropping the *-is* and adding *-es*:

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
axis	axes
analysis	analyses

basis	bases
crisis	crises
diagnosis	diagnoses
ellipsis	ellipses
emphasis	emphases
hypothesis	hypotheses
neurosis	neuroses
oasis	oases
paralysis	paralyses
parenthesis	parentheses
thesis	theses

-ix becoming -ices

Some nouns ending in *-ix* are pluralized by dropping the *-ix* and adding *-ices*:

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
appendix	appendices
index	indices
matrix	matrices

Unchanged plurals

A few nouns are unchanged in their plural forms:

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>
barracks	barracks
deer	deer
fish	fish
gallows	gallows
means	means
offspring	offspring
series	series
sheep	sheep
species	species