

Lesson 10: Irregular Plural Nouns

LEARN

- Some nouns have **irregular plurals**. In most cases the spelling of the singular noun changes to form the plural.

SINGULAR	man	woman	child	tooth
PLURAL	men	women	children	teeth
SINGULAR	foot	goose	mouse	ox
PLURAL	feet	geese	mice	oxen

- In a few cases the plural noun and the singular noun are the same.

SINGULAR	One deer nibbles the grass.
PLURAL	Three deer stand and watch.
SINGULAR	This sheep is white.
PLURAL	The other two sheep are brown.
SINGULAR	A moose swam across the lake.
PLURAL	Several moose live on the island.



PRACTICE

A Read each sentence. Write *singular* if the noun in **boldface** is a singular noun. Write *plural* if it is a plural noun.

- The **children** in our class went to the wildlife refuge.
- A friendly **man** met us at the entrance.
- Several Canada **geese** were swimming in the pond.
- A single **moose** stood at the water's edge.
- We were as quiet as **mice**, but it still ran away.
- Two **women** showed us a tree cut down by a beaver.
- What sharp **teeth** that beaver must have!
- At sunset a **deer** came down to the water to drink.

plural

singular

plural

singular

plural

plural

plural

singular

PRACTICE A continued

9. Three other **deer** soon followed.
10. An **ox** stood alone in the field.


plural

singular

B Write the plural form of the noun in parentheses to complete each sentence.

1. Twelve **geese** are honking in the sky above. (goose)
2. Three **women** look up at the big birds. (woman)
3. A group of **deer** is eating from a bush. (deer)
4. The animals use their **teeth** to tear the leaves. (tooth)
5. Several **mice** chewed the bark from this young tree. (mouse)
6. Many tiny **feet** left prints in the mud. (foot)
7. The four **children** point with excitement across the lake. (child)
8. Two huge **moose** are standing on the other side. (moose)
9. At a farm museum two **men** tell us about the past. (man)
10. Two **oxen** pull a plow in a field. (ox)
11. A flock of **sheep** grazes in a meadow nearby. (sheep)
12. A family of **mice** races across the field. (mouse)



Remember 
For most **irregular plurals**, the spelling of the singular noun changes to form the plural.

C Connie wrote this poem about the first day of spring. She made six mistakes when forming irregular plural nouns. Look for the mistakes and fix them. Use the proofreading marks in the box.

The First Day of Spring

The first day of spring can't be beat!

I smile at all the people I meet.

The other ^{children} ~~childs~~ are smiling, too.

We all go together to the zoo.

The ^{reindeer} ~~reindeers~~ and lions are having fun.

They all seem glad that winter is done.

The bighorn ^{sheep} ~~sheeps~~ don't say, "Baa," today.

Instead they're yelling, "Hip, Hip, Hooray!"






Up in the sky six ^{geese} ~~goose~~ are squawking.

It almost sounds as if they're talking

About spring to the ^{men} ~~mans~~ and ^{women} ~~womens~~ below,

But what they're saying, we'll never know.

Proofreading Marks

-  Add
-  Period
-  Take out
-  Capital letter
-  Small letter



Did you correct six irregular plural nouns?



WRITE



D Read these rhymes about irregular plural nouns. Then write three rhymes of your own. Use the words in parentheses in your rhymes.

Answers may vary. Sample answers are given.

One bird is a goose,
And two are called geese.
But the plural of moose
Can never be meese!

The singular is man,
The plural is men.
But the plural of pan
Just cannot be pen!

- I have one left and one right foot. (foot)

That makes two feet. (feet)

If I have one left and one right boot, (boot)

Does that make two beet? (beet)
- We call one an ox. (ox)

We call more than one oxen. (oxen)

We call one a fox, (fox)

But don't call two of them foxen! (foxen)
- One of these is called a mouse. (mouse)

Two of them are known as mice. (mice)

One of these is called a blouse, (blouse)

But more than one is never blice! (blice)

Proofreading Checklist

- Did you use the words in parentheses in your rhymes?
- Did you spell the real singular and plural nouns correctly?