

# 3

# Nouns

## Common Nouns

**Nouns** are divided into **common nouns** and **proper nouns**. **Common nouns** are words for people, animals, places, or things.

These are words for people. They are common nouns.



artist



clown

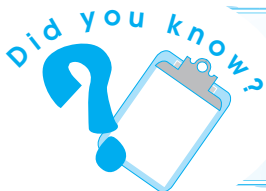
acrobat

### Word File

Here are more words for people:

actor	lawyer
aunt	judge
baby	man
baker	nurse
cook	police officer
dentist	singer
doctor	soldier
giant	teacher

astronaut



Another word for **astronaut** is **spaceman** or **spacewoman**.



These are words for animals. They are common nouns.

eagle



zebra

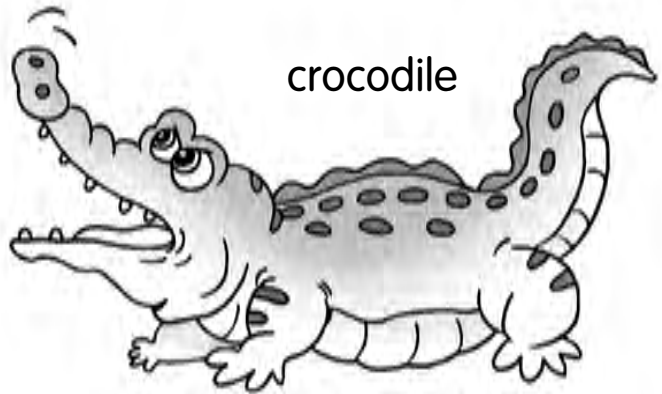


deer



bird

crocodile



bear



### Word File

Here are more words for animals:

- |         |        |
|---------|--------|
| cat     | goose  |
| cow     | hen    |
| dog     | horse  |
| dolphin | mouse  |
| duck    | parrot |
| fish    | shark  |
| goat    | whale  |

These are words for places. They are common nouns.



beach



park



library

shop



### Word File

Here are more words for places:

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| airport  | market      |
| cave     | mountain    |
| church   | playground  |
| farm     | restaurant  |
| hill     | school      |
| hospital | seashore    |
| hotel    | stadium     |
| house    | supermarket |
| island   | temple      |
| mall     | zoo         |



These are words for things. They are common nouns.



basket

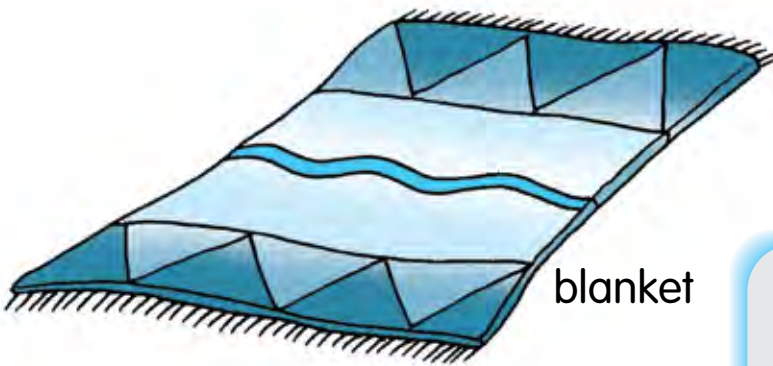
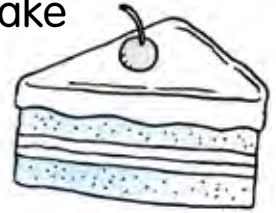


bed



drum

cake

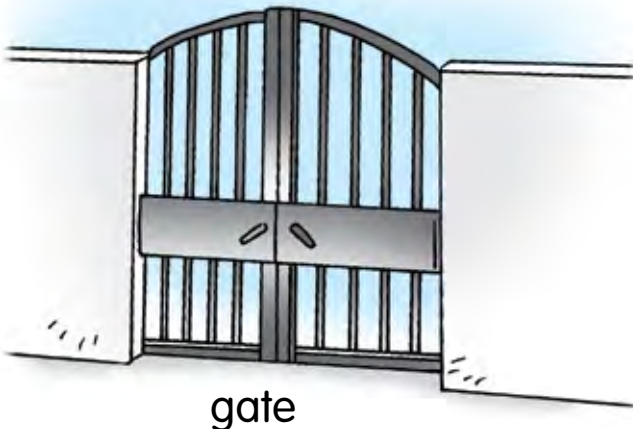


blanket

### Word File

Here are more words for things:

bag	kite
box	ladder
bread	lamp
can	picture
chair	radio
cot	television
cup	train
desk	truck
door	watch
egg	window



gate

## Exercise 1

Underline the common nouns in these sentences.

- 1 There's a little bird in the garden.
- 2 Who is your teacher?
- 3 Don't eat that rotten apple.
- 4 Kate has a lovely doll.
- 5 I like reading stories.
- 6 My father is a doctor.
- 7 Every child has a dictionary.
- 8 Rudy hates bananas.
- 9 The phone is ringing.
- 10 Here's a book for you.

## Exercise 2

Here's a mixed bag of words. Put each word under its correct heading.

swimmer

snail

fire engine

clown

letters

flag

river

barber

mountain

fox

hotel

parrot

granny

taxi

gardener

camel

**People**

**Animals**

**Places**

**Things**

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\_\_\_\_\_

# Proper Nouns

**Proper nouns** are names for particular people, places or things. They always begin with a capital letter.



Omar



Beethoven



Lisa

Santa Claus



## Word File

Here are some more names of people:

Ali Baba

Florence Nightingale

Derek Jeter

Pauline

Johnny Depp

Patrick

Harry Potter

Pinocchio

Robin Hood



Your own name and the names of your friends are proper nouns too.



The names of countries and their people are also proper nouns.



American



Egyptian



Indian



Italian



Thai



Japanese



Korean



Malay



Filipino



Pakistani

**Country**

America  
Egypt  
India  
Italy  
Japan

**People**

Americans  
Egyptians  
Indians  
Italians  
the Japanese

**Country**

Korea  
Malaysia  
Pakistan  
France  
Thailand

**People**

Koreans  
Malaysians  
Pakistanis  
the French  
Thais



The names of towns, cities, buildings and landmarks are proper nouns.



Hong Kong



Egypt



the Great Wall of China



the Statue of Liberty



Tokyo



Sydney

Bangkok  
London  
New York  
Paris  
Beijing

New Delhi  
Denver  
Central Park  
the Eiffel Tower  
Big Ben

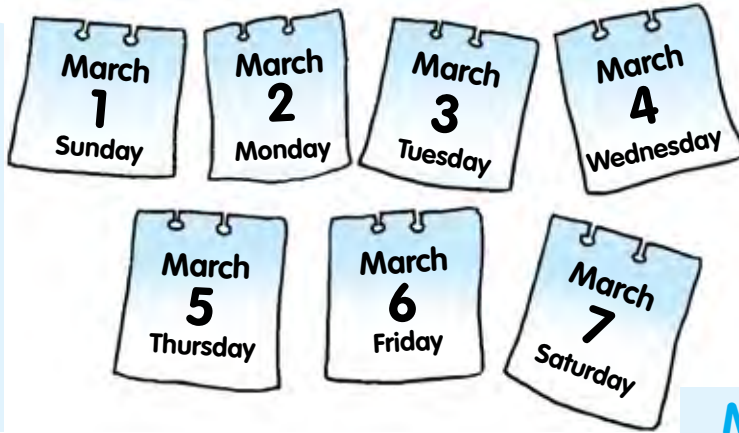
the Grand Canyon  
the Leaning Tower of Pisa  
Brooklyn Bridge  
Pike's Peak



The days of the week and months of the year are proper nouns.

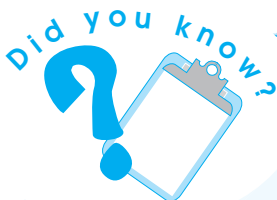
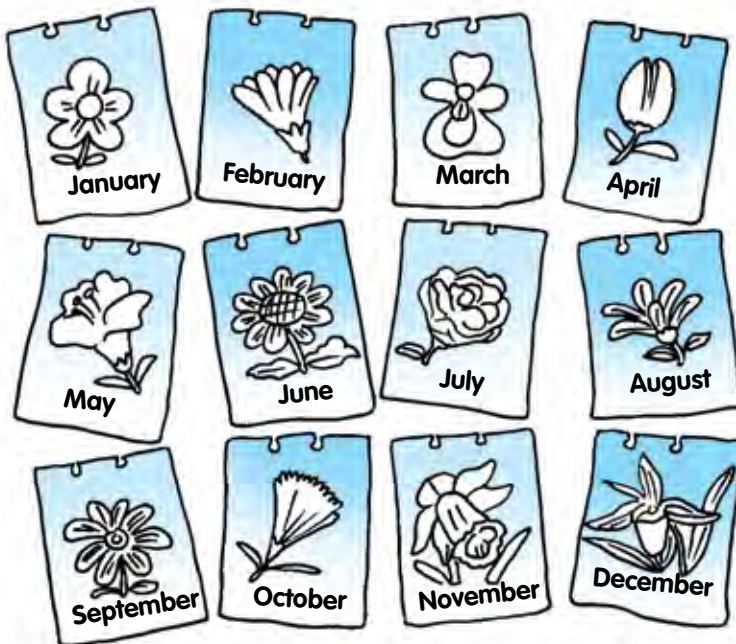
### Days

Sunday  
Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday  
Saturday



### Months

January  
February  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November  
December



**January** is the first month of the year.

**Sunday** is the first day of the week.

A table that shows the months, weeks  
days



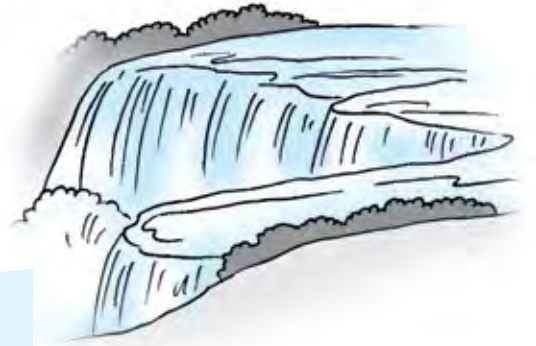
The names of mountains, seas, rivers and lakes are proper nouns.



the Thames



Mount Everest



Niagara Falls

Lake Michigan

the Alps

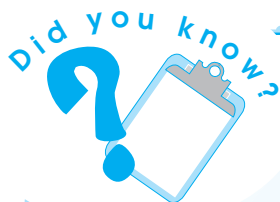
the Dead Sea

Mount Fuji

the Himalayas

the Pacific Ocean

the Yellow River



You often use **the** before names of oceans, rivers, seas and ranges of mountains.

**Mount** means **mountain**.

It is often used in the names of mountains.

For example: Mount Everest  
Mount St. Helens

The written short form for **Mount** is **Mt.**

For example: Mt. Everest, Mt. Fuji



The names of festivals, some special events and holidays are proper nouns, too.



Valentine's Day



Father's Day



Halloween



New Year's Day

### Word File

Here are more names of festivals and holidays:

Christmas

Mother's Day

Memorial Day

April Fool's Day

Labor Day

Thanksgiving Day

Independence Day

St. Patrick's Day



## Exercise 1

Underline the *proper nouns* in the following sentences.

- 1 July is often the hottest month in summer.
- 2 One day Ali Baba saw the forty thieves hiding in a cave.
- 3 Shawn and Ashley are going to the beach for a swim.
- 4 Mr. Lee is reading a book.
- 5 "I am your fairy godmother," said the old woman to Cinderella.
- 6 Uncle Mike is a lawyer.
- 7 Next Tuesday is a public holiday.
- 8 Many children enjoyed the movie Lion King.

## Exercise 2

Look at the words in the box. Which ones are *common nouns* and which ones are *proper nouns*? Put each word under its correct heading.

Lisa	bank	President Hotel	United Bank
January	beach	White Sand Beach	hotel
doctor	month	Dr. Wang	girl

**Common Nouns**

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**Proper Nouns**

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### Exercise 3

Write **C** for *common* or **P** for *proper* on the blank before each noun.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ the White House
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ the green dress
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ the tall building
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ the Empire State Building
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ the Yellow River
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ the muddy river
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ the governor
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ Governor Parker
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ the Oregon Trail
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ the winding trail

### Exercise 4

Underline the nouns that should be capitalized. Circle the nouns that should *not* be capitalized.

- 1 Robert louis Stevenson wrote treasure island.
- 2 The Capital of illinois is Springfield.
- 3 My Friends and I prefer Glittergums toothpaste.
- 4 Their Family visited Yellowstone national Park.
- 5 Juan and maria attend kennedy Middle school.
- 6 We had a Surprise Party for aunt Helen.
- 7 Spring and Fall are my favorite Seasons.
- 8 The Manager scolded his lazy Employees.

# Singular Nouns

Nouns can be **singular** or **plural**. When you are talking about one person, animal, place, or thing, use a singular noun.



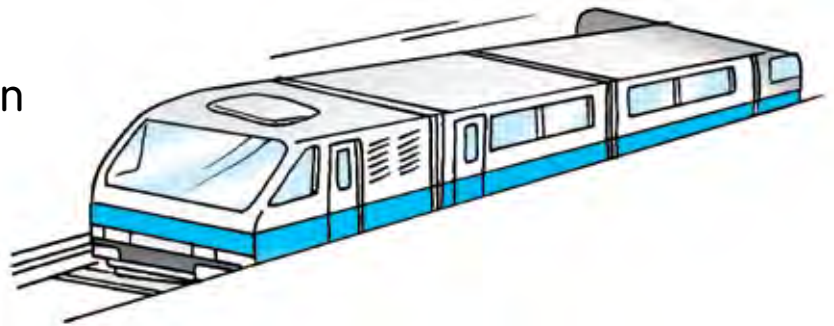
a ship

an owl



a woman

a train



a flower



## Word File

These are also singular nouns:

an airplane

a letter

a bicycle

a map

a boy

a photograph

a bus

a refrigerator

a comb

a slide

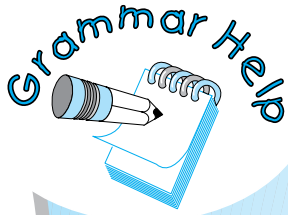
a girl

a swing

a key

a van





- ▶ Use **a** or **an** before singular nouns.  
Use **an** before words beginning with **vowels** (a, e, i, o, u). For example, say:

<b>an</b> axe	<b>an</b> igloo
<b>an</b> egg	<b>an</b> orange
<b>an</b> envelope	<b>an</b> umbrella
<b>an</b> ice cream	<b>an</b> uncle

- ▶ But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **a** (not **an**) before these words that begin with **u**:

<b>a</b> uniform	<b>a</b> university
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- ▶ Use **a** before words beginning with the other letters of the alphabet, called **consonants**.  
For example, say:

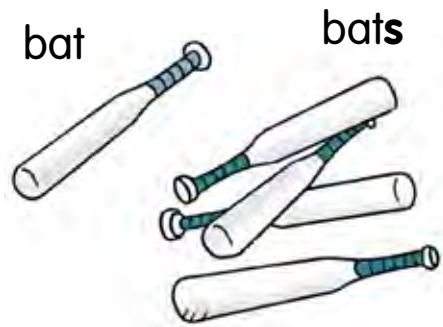
<b>a</b> basket	<b>a</b> rainbow
<b>a</b> bowl	<b>a</b> monster
<b>a</b> car	<b>a</b> pillow
<b>a</b> hill	<b>a</b> watch
<b>a</b> house	<b>a</b> zoo

- ▶ But some words don't follow this rule. For example, use **an** (not **a**) before these words that begin with **h**:

<b>an</b> heir
<b>an</b> honor
<b>an</b> hour

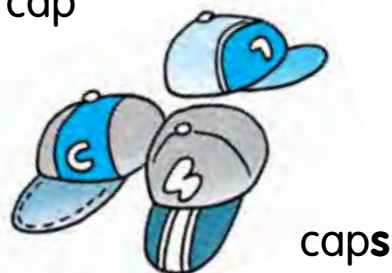
# Plural Nouns

When you are talking about two or more people, animals, places, or things, use plural nouns. Most nouns are made plural by adding **-s** at the end.



## Word File

Singular	Plural
bird	birds
broom	brooms
camel	camels
desk	desks
doll	dolls
egg	eggs
flower	flowers
fork	forks
game	games
lamb	lambs
nest	nests
pen	pens
photo	photos
shirt	shirts
spoon	spoons



Some plural nouns end in **-es**.



bus



glass



brush



buses



glasses



brushes

watch



watches



fox

foxes



### Word File

#### Singular

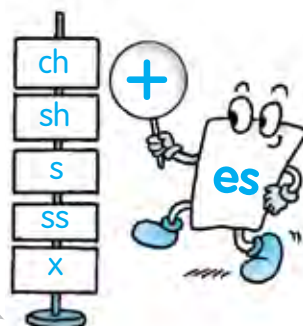
beach  
branch  
box  
bush  
church  
dish  
dress  
sandwich  
witch

#### Plural

beaches  
branches  
boxes  
bushes  
churches  
dishes  
dresses  
sandwiches  
witches

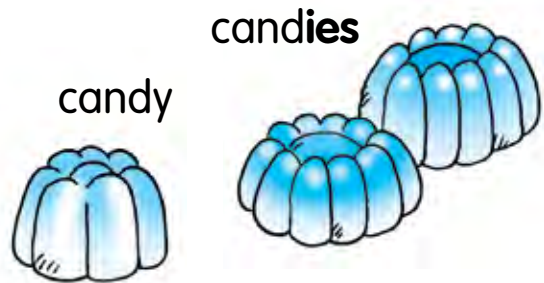
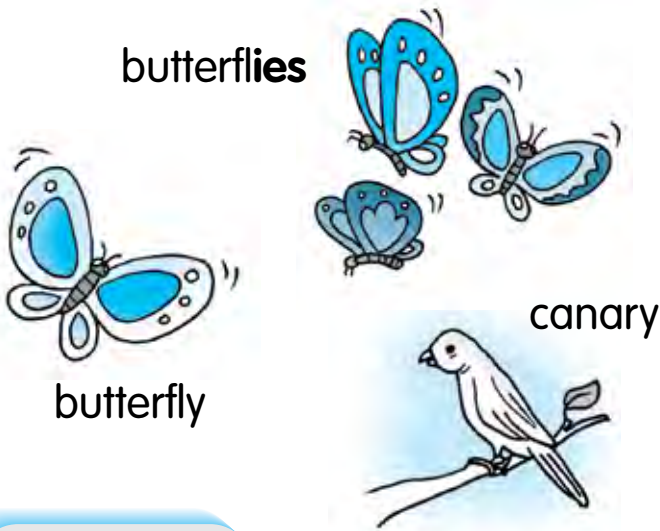


When the last letters of singular nouns are **ch, sh, s, ss** or **x**, you usually add **-es** to form the plural.





Some plural nouns end in **-ies**.



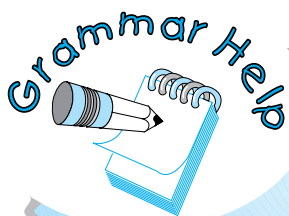
### Word File

#### Singular

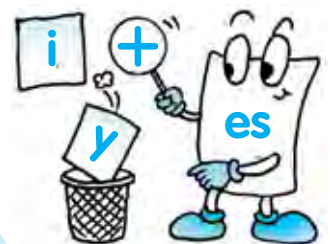
baby  
cherry  
diary  
dictionary  
fairy  
family  
fly  
lady  
library  
puppy  
story  
strawberry

#### Plural

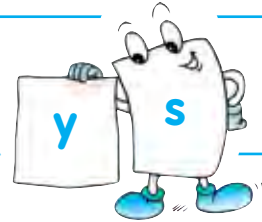
babies  
cherries  
diaries  
dictionaries  
fairies  
families  
flies  
ladies  
libraries  
puppies  
stories  
strawberries



Nouns like these are made plural by changing **y** to **i**, and adding **-es**.



What if there is a vowel before the **y**?  
In that case, add **-s** to form the plural.



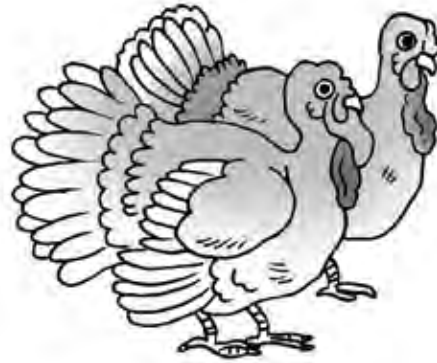
key



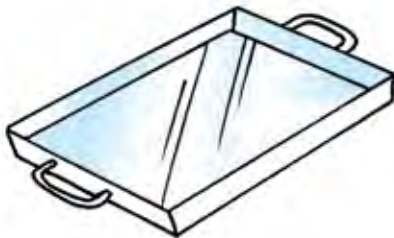
turkey



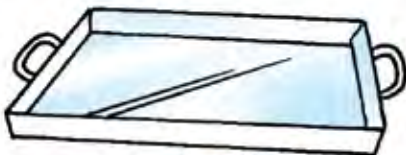
keys



turkeys



tray



trays



### Word File

#### Singular

chimney  
cowboy  
day  
donkey  
jersey  
kidney  
monkey  
toy  
trolley  
valley

#### Plural

chimneys  
cowboys  
days  
donkeys  
jerseys  
kidneys  
monkeys  
toys  
trolleys  
valleys

If a noun ends in **-f**, you often change **f** to **v**, and add **-es**.

**Singular**

calf  
elf  
half  
leaf

**Plural**

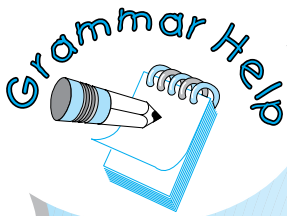
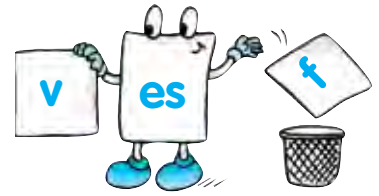
calves  
elves  
halves  
leaves

**Singular**

loaf  
shelf  
thief  
wolf

**Plural**

loaves  
shelves  
thieves  
wolves



Often nouns that end in **-f**, just need **-s** to form the plural.



**Singular**

chef  
chief  
cliff

**Plural**

chefs  
chiefs  
cliffs

**Singular**

handkerchief  
roof  
sheriff

**Plural**

handkerchiefs  
roofs  
sheriffs

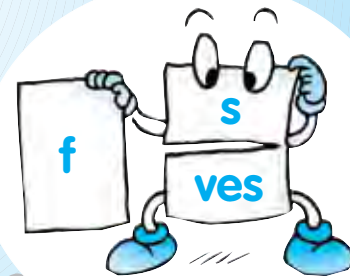
For some words that end in **-f**, the plural can be spelled in two different ways.

**Singular**

dwarf  
hoof  
scarf

**Plural**

dwarfs or dwarves  
hoofs or hooves  
scarfs or scarves



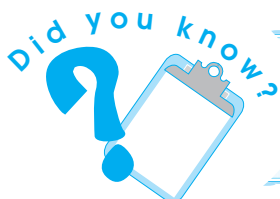
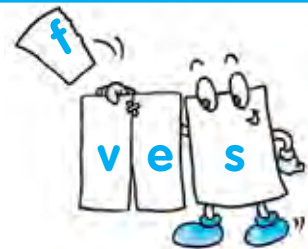
With some words that end in **-fe**, you change **f** to **v**, and add **-s**.

**Singular**

knife  
life  
wife

**Plural**

knives  
lives  
wives



But you only add **-s** to **giraffe** to form the plural.

If a noun ends in **-o**, you just add **-s** to form the plural.



a rhino



rhinos



a kangaroo



kangaroos

### Word File

#### Singular

a hippo  
a video  
a zoo

#### Plural

hippos  
videos  
zoos

But with some nouns that end in **-o**, you add **-es** to form the plural.



a flamingo



flamingoes

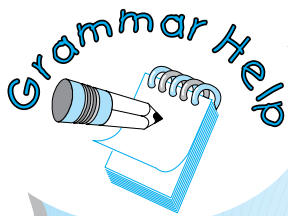
### Word File

#### Singular

a tomato  
a potato  
a hero

#### Plural

tomatoes  
potatoes  
heroes



With some nouns that end in **-o**, you can add either **-s** or **-es** to form the plural.

#### Singular

a mango  
a mosquito  
a zero  
a buffalo

#### Plural

mangoes  
mosquitoes  
zeroes  
buffaloes

#### Plural

mangos  
mosquitos  
zeros  
buffalos



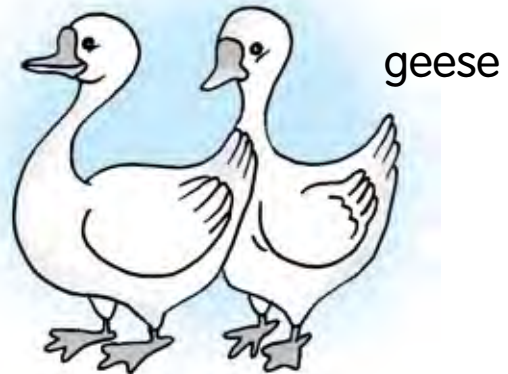
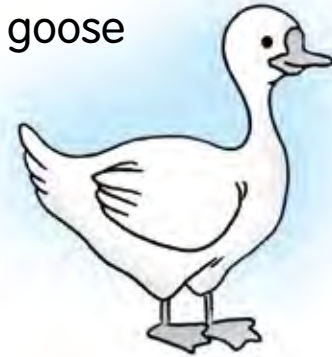
Some plural nouns don't follow the **-s** rule. They don't end in **-s**, **-es**, **-ies** or **-ves**. Instead, the word changes form.



mouse



mice



### Word File

#### Singular

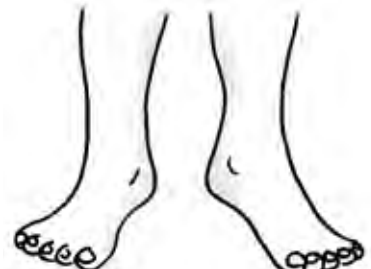
child  
man  
ox  
tooth  
woman

#### Plural

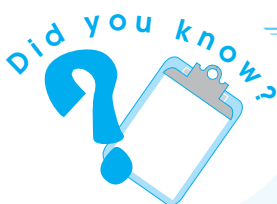
children  
men  
oxen  
teeth  
women



foot



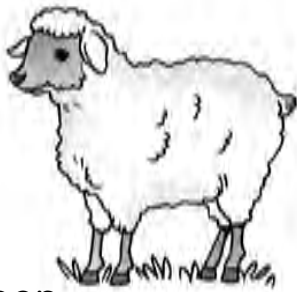
feet



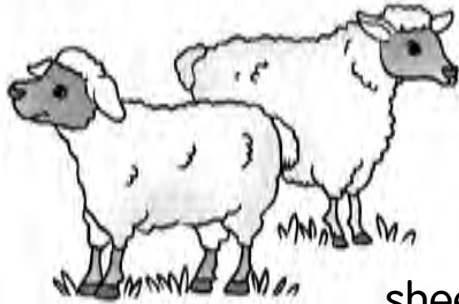
The plural of the **mouse** that you use with your computer is either **mice** or **mouses**.



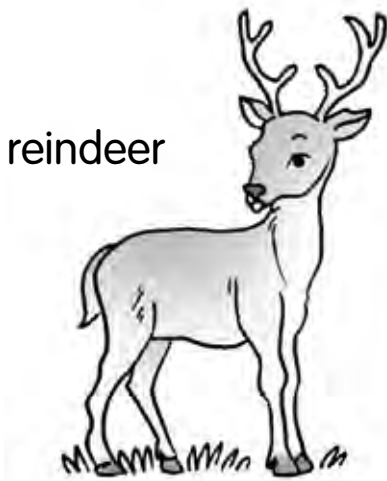
Some plural nouns are the same as the singular noun.



sheep



sheep



reindeer

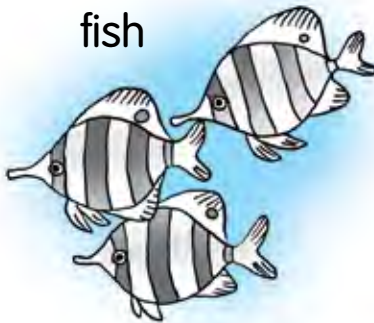


reindeer



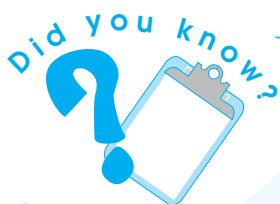
fish

fish



### Word File

Singular	Plural
bison	bison
deer	deer



You can use **fishes** as the plural of **fish** when you are talking about different kinds of fish: all the **fishes** of the Pacific Ocean.



Some nouns are always plural.

binoculars



goggles



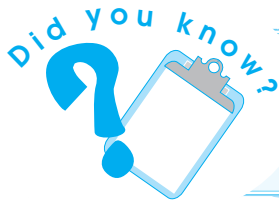
### Word File

pants	scissors
pajamas	sneakers
shorts	slippers
trousers	stockings
sandals	

pliers



jeans



Another word for **spectacles** is **glasses**.



spectacles



You can make these plural nouns singular by using **a pair of**:

- a pair of binoculars
- a pair of spectacles
- a pair of goggles
- a pair of jeans
- a pair of shorts
- a pair of pliers



a pair of shoes

## Exercise 1

Look at the words below. Do you know which ones are *singular* and which are *plural*? Put a checkmark (✓) in the correct box.

	Singular	Plural
word	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
pencils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
fan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
hat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
kites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
crab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
foxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Exercise 2

Do you add *-s* or *-es* to these singular nouns to make them plural? Write your answers on the lines.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 desk	_____	6 basket	_____
2 class	_____	7 peach	_____
3 comb	_____	8 belt	_____
4 mug	_____	9 taxi	_____
5 bus	_____	10 box	_____



### Exercise 3

Do you change *-y* to *-ies*, or just add *-s* to make these singular nouns plural? Write your answers.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 key	_____	6 toy	_____
2 city	_____	7 baby	_____
3 butterfly	_____	8 party	_____
4 monkey	_____	9 chimney	_____
5 fly	_____	10 lady	_____

### Exercise 4

All these singular nouns end with *-o*. Add either *-s* or *-es* as you write the plurals on the line.

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
1 video	_____	6 radio	_____
2 piano	_____	7 hippo	_____
3 mango	_____	8 zoo	_____
4 kangaroo	_____	9 zero	_____
5 rhino	_____	10 photo	_____

# Collective Nouns

**Collective nouns** are words for groups of people, animals or things.

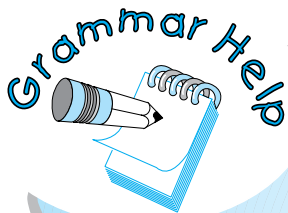
These are nouns for groups of people.



## Word File

Here are some more groups of people:

an audience	a gang
a band	a group
a choir	a team
a class	



Many **collective nouns** can be used with a singular or plural verb.

For example:

My family **was** happy to see me.  
or

My family **were** happy to see me.

But the following collective nouns always take a plural verb:

cattle                      people                      the police

Here are more collective nouns that are used for groups of people, animals or things.



a **band** of musicians



a **brood** of chickens



a **school** of fish

### Word File

Here are some more collective nouns:

- a **bunch** of keys
- a **class** of pupils
- a **collection** of books
- a **deck** of cards
- a **fleet** of ships
- a **flock** of sheep
- a **gaggle** of geese
- a **gang** of robbers
- a **herd** of cattle
- a **litter** of cubs
- a **pod** of whales
- a **pack** of wolves
- a **pride** of lions
- a **set** of stamps
- a **swarm** of bees
- a **troupe** of actors



a **team** of players



a **flight** of steps

## Exercise

Farmer John had *several different* kinds of animals on his farm. Write the correct *collective noun* for each group of his animals.



Farmer John had:

a \_\_\_\_\_ of geese

a \_\_\_\_\_ of sheep

a \_\_\_\_\_ of cattle

a \_\_\_\_\_ of horses

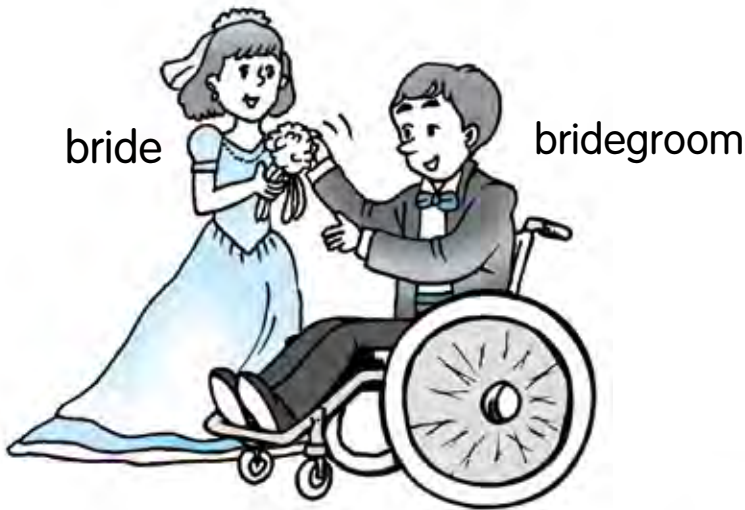
One day a \_\_\_\_\_ of coyotes tried to attack his animals. Farmer John yelled and waved a pitchfork to frighten them away.



# Masculine and Feminine Nouns

**Masculine nouns** are words for men and boys, and male animals.

**Feminine nouns** are words for women and girls, and female animals.



bride

bridegroom

rooster



hen



king

queen

lion



lioness

## Word File

### Masculine

boy  
man  
prince  
steward  
waiter

### Feminine

girl  
woman  
princess  
stewardess  
waitress

Here are some more masculine and feminine nouns for people.



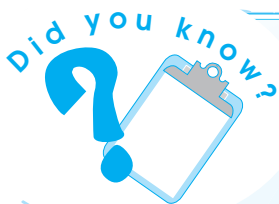
## Masculine

actor  
brother  
emperor  
father  
gentleman  
grandfather  
grandson  
headmaster  
man  
master  
nephew  
prince  
son  
steward  
uncle  
wizard



## Feminine

actress  
sister  
empress  
mother  
lady  
grandmother  
granddaughter  
headmistress  
woman  
mistress  
niece  
princess  
daughter  
stewardess  
aunt  
witch



Masculine nouns belong to the **masculine gender**.  
Feminine nouns belong to the **feminine gender**.

Here are some masculine and feminine nouns for male and female animals.



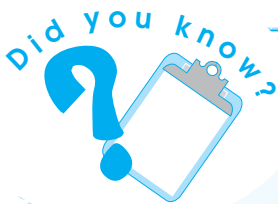
**Male**



**Female**

**Animal**

chicken	rooster	hen
cattle	bull	cow
deer	buck	doe
donkey	jack	jenny
duck	drake	duck
fox	fox	vixen
goose	gander	goose
horse	stallion	mare
lion	lion	lioness
sheep	ram	ewe
tiger	tiger	tigress



Nouns that end in **-ess** and **-ress** often belong to the feminine gender. For example:

actress	stewardess
lioness	tigress
princess	waitress

Many nouns are used for both males and females.



doctors



dancers



scientists



hairdressers

### Word File

Nouns like these are used for both males and females:

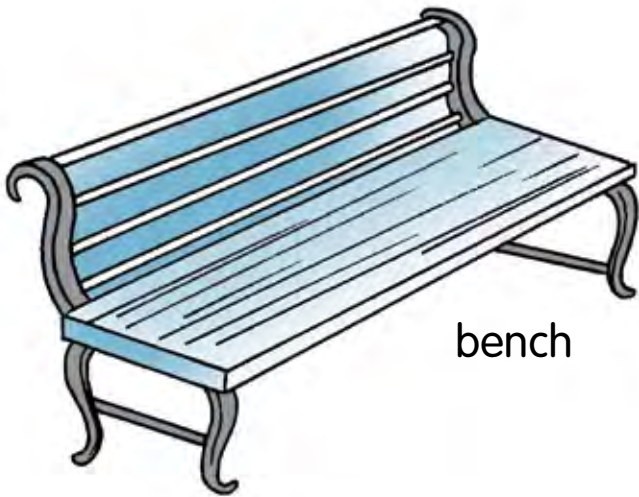
- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| accountants | parents  |
| artists     | managers |
| designers   | pupils   |
| engineers   | singers  |
| lawyers     | teachers |



We call these nouns **common-gender** nouns.



Words for things that are neither male nor female are called **neuter nouns**.



bench



leaves



mirror



fire



waterfall

### Word File

Here are some neuter nouns:

- |          |            |
|----------|------------|
| ball     | forest     |
| building | gymnasium  |
| broom    | playground |
| cake     | rock       |
| computer | sky        |
| card     | socks      |
| floor    | wind       |

## Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct *masculine* or *feminine* nouns.

### Masculine

### Feminine

- |    |         |         |
|----|---------|---------|
| 1  | master  | _____   |
| 2  | uncle   | _____   |
| 3  | _____   | niece   |
| 4  | _____   | lioness |
| 5  | tiger   | _____   |
| 6  | _____   | empress |
| 7  | husband | _____   |
| 8  | son     | _____   |
| 9  | _____   | mother  |
| 10 | _____   | madam   |

## Exercise 2

Fill in each blank with a suitable *masculine* or *feminine* noun.

- 1 The host and the \_\_\_\_\_ welcomed their guests.
- 2 The steward and the \_\_\_\_\_ look after the passengers on the plane.
- 3 My uncle and \_\_\_\_\_ lived in Nebraska.
- 4 The king and the \_\_\_\_\_ had two children, a boy and a \_\_\_\_\_. The prince was eight and the \_\_\_\_\_ was five.
- 5 Ladies and \_\_\_\_\_, welcome to our party this evening.

### Exercise 3

Look at the words in the box. Write each word under its correct heading.

children	sun	witch	king
boy	son	father	girl
mother	queen	file	teacher
lamp	doctor	dancer	wizard
ram	rooster	elf	fish

**Masculine**

**Feminine**

**Common Gender**

**Neuter**

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