

## Nomen

### A general description

A noun can be singular (*single form*) or plural.

**Example:** singular: (one) shop  
plural: (multiple) shops

There are three possible cases for a noun depending on its position and context in a sentence. A noun can be declined in the different cases.

1. Case: subject case → the girl
2. Case: genitive → the girl's
3. Case: object case → the girl

As shown, the article doesn't change in the different cases, therefore the subject and object case can only be distinguished by the sentence position of the noun. In contradiction to the subject and the object case, the genitive and the plural of a noun are marked by their specific endings, such being the case are the only two aspects of the noun which can be an issue. On the following pages, the forming of the plural and genitive of a noun will be shown with the basic rule and its exceptions.

### The Plural of the Nouns

#### A Theoretical Overview

##### Basic Rule:

Basically, to form the plural a "-s" is hung at the end of the singular.  
Example: shop - shops

*Note:* In the English plural, there are some exceptions depending on the ending or origin of the word in the singular.

- ❖ The noun ends in a sibilant → "-es" is appended.

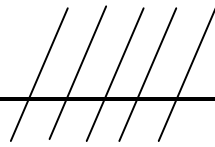
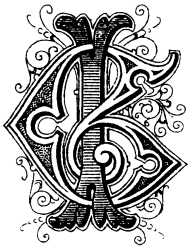
**Example:** kiss – kisses

- ❖ The noun ends on a consonant + "y" → "y" becomes "-ie" and "-s" is appended.

**Example:** lady – ladies

- ❖ The noun ends on an "-o" → "-es" is appended.

**Example:** potato – potatoes



*Note:* Foreign words are not covered by this rule

**Example:** kilos, pianos, studios, tobaccos, radios, photos etc.

❖ The noun ends on an "-f / -fe" → "-f / -fe" becomes "-ve" and "-s" is appended.

**Example:** knife – knives

This includes: knife, wife, leaf, loaf, thief, calf, half, shelf, wolf.

Exceptions: beliefs, briefs, chiefs, handkerchiefs, proofs, reefs, roofs.

*Note:* foreign words usually retain the plural form of the language of origin.

This includes:

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
analysis	analyses	minimum	mimima
bacillus	bacilli	phenomenon	phenomena
bacterium	bacteria	stimulus	stimuli
basis	bases	thesis	theses
crisis	crises		

*Note:* There are some plurals that do not fall under the exceptions above.

This includes:

<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
child	children	mouse	mice
foot	feet	ox	oxen
goose	geese	tooth	teeth
louse	lice	woman	women
man	men		

*Note:* For some nouns, singular and plural are the same.

**Examples:** fish – fish

This includes:

- a) sheep, salmon, trout, deer, grouse
  - b) Nationalities ending on “-ese”
- Example:** Chinese
- c) technical devices ending on „-craft“
- Example:** aircraft
- d) French, Swiss