

Plurals

Plurals are used when there is more than one of something. Usually you just add an 's', but there are a number of tricky words where you have to apply a different rule.

Rule 1 **Simply add an 's'**

Examples: bed = bed**s**, spoon = spoon**s**

Rule 2 **If the word ends in a 'y'**

If there is a vowel before the 'y', just add an 's'.

If there is a consonant before the 'y', change the 'y' to 'ies'.

Examples: monkey = monkey**s**, sky = sky**ies**

Rule 3 **If there is an 'o' at the end of a word**

If there is a vowel before the 'o', just add an 's'.

If there is a consonant before the 'o', add 'es'.

Examples: video = video**s**, tomato = tomato**es**

Rule 4 **Words that end in 'ch', 'sh' or 'x'**

Add 'es'.

Examples: church = church**es**, box = box**es**, dish = dish**es**

Rule 5 **If a word already ends in an 's'**

Add 'es'.

Examples: bus = bus**es**, kiss = kiss**es**

Rule 6 If a word ends in an 'f'

Nearly always replace the 'f' with 'ves'

Examples: leaf = lea**ves**, wolf = wolv**es**

Some words are naughty and do not follow this rule! You just have to remember which ones they are.

Examples: roof = roof**s**, chef = chef**s**

Rule 7 Some words change completely!

Examples: child = **children**, person = **people**, man = **men**

Rule 8 Some words don't change at all!

Examples: sheep = **sheep**, fish = **fish**

Plural activity 1

Using the rules poster to help you, write plurals of the following words:

One donkey  two _____

One fly  three _____

One potato  four _____

One domino  three _____

One atlas  fifteen _____

One thief  three _____

One bus  two _____

One video  four _____

One cake  three _____

One man  five _____

One leaf  twelve _____

One donkey  three _____

One witch  three _____

One wish  seven _____

One fox  four _____

Plural activity 2

Read the following passage, then underline the incorrect plurals and rewrite the passage correctly.

Once upon a time there were three witches who had three pet monkeys. On a dark and stormy night two children met the witches on the top of a hill. The wind was blowing hundreds of leaves were swishing all around. The wolves were howling and the sheeps were sleeping. The witches were stirring a cauldron with their spoones and chanting a frightening rhyme.

“Pass me three boxes of flies little boy,” one witch said.

“What for?” asked the bravest child.

“We are casting our spells to grant you all three wishes,” the witch replied.

“You thought we were nasty witches didn’t you little children?” another witch asked.

With faces as red as tomatoes, the children ran away not knowing whether they had blown their chances of making spectacular wishes or made a lucky escape. They will never know.

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Plural activity 3

Print the words and endings on different colour card. Cut out the cards and turn face down.

Children choose a word card and an endings card.

If the word and ending create the correct plural, the child scores a point. If they do not replace the cards and someone else takes a turn.

N.B. The endings card must always be replaced as it will work with more than one word.

Words

monkey

fly

box

tomato

kiss

dish

leaf

child

church

dwarf

man

roof

