

Plural Noun Rules

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Can you describe the rules for making a noun plural and show how to ensure agreement in a sentence?



Sure! Making a noun plural in English typically involves a few straightforward rules, but there are some exceptions. Here are the main rules:

Basic Rules for Making Nouns Plural:

1. Regular Plurals:

- **Most nouns:** Add -s to the end of the noun.
 - Example: cat → cats, dog → dogs
- **Nouns ending in s, x, z, ch, sh:** Add -es.
 - Example: bus → buses, box → boxes, buzz → buzzes, church → churches, dish → dishes
- **Nouns ending in a consonant + y:** Change the -y to -ies.
 - Example: baby → babies, city → cities
- **Nouns ending in a vowel + y:** Add -s.
 - Example: key → keys, boy → boys
- **Nouns ending in f or fe:** Change the -f or -fe to -ves.
 - Example: leaf → leaves, wife → wives
- **Nouns ending in o:** Add -es if the noun is of foreign origin or refers to a type of music or dance; otherwise, add -s.
 - Example: hero → heroes, tomato → tomatoes, but photo → photos, piano → pianos

2. Irregular Plurals:

- Some nouns have irregular plural forms.
 - Example: man → men, woman → women, child → children, foot → feet, tooth → teeth, mouse → mice

3. Same Singular and Plural Form:

- Some nouns have the same form for both singular and plural.
 - Example: sheep → sheep, deer → deer, fish → fish (though "fishes" can be used to refer to different species)

Ensuring Agreement in a Sentence:

To ensure agreement in a sentence, make sure that the noun and its corresponding verb match in number (singular or plural). Also, any pronouns referring to the noun should agree in number. Here are some guidelines:

1. Subject-Verb Agreement:

- Singular subjects take singular verbs.
 - Example: The cat runs quickly.
- Plural subjects take plural verbs.
 - Example: The cats run quickly.

2. Pronoun Agreement:

- Singular nouns take singular pronouns.
 - Example: The dog is in its kennel.
- Plural nouns take plural pronouns.
 - Example: The dogs are in their kennels.

3. Collective Nouns:

- Collective nouns (e.g., team, family, group) can be singular or plural based on whether you are referring to the group as a single entity or as individual members.
 - Example: The team is winning. (as a single entity)
 - Example: The team are wearing their new uniforms. (as individual members)

Examples:

1. Regular Plurals:

- Singular: The boy is playing in the park.
- Plural: The boys are playing in the park.

2. Irregular Plurals:

- Singular: The child is reading a book.
- Plural: The children are reading books.

3. Collective Noun:

- Singular: The family is going on vacation.
- Plural: The family are arguing among themselves.

By following these rules, you can ensure that your nouns are correctly pluralized and that your sentences maintain proper agreement.