

# 11 Rules for Using Plurals

## Rule 1:

Form plurals of **regular nouns** by adding -s or -es: Form the plurals of **irregular nouns** in ways other than adding -s or -s:

### Example:

**Regular:** schools, colleges, cars, foxes, candies,  
\*university: universities, boy: boys

**irregular:** children, women, deer, geese

\*If a word ends in -y, first change the -y to -i, then add -es. Do not change -y to -ies if the y is preceded by a vowel.

## Rule 2:

Remember that **non-count nouns** are always singular:

### Example:

- **Wrong:** The equipments are expensive.
- **Correct:** The equipment is expensive.

Don't forget that your **verb** should always agree with the subject!

## Rule 3:

Use plural nouns immediately after adjectives such as **a few**, **many**, **most**, and **some**, and after pronouns such as **these** and **those**:

### Example:

- **Wrong:** Most student like computers.
- **Correct:** **Most** students like computers.
  
- **Wrong:** These tree provide no shade.
- **Correct:** **These** trees provide no shade.

## Rule 4:

Use plural nouns after adjective phrases beginning with **one of the**:

### Example:

- **Wrong:** Felix takes pride in being **one of the** most humble member of the Egotists Club.
- **Correct:** Felix takes pride in being **one of the** most humble members of the Egotists Club.

## Rule 5:

Use **many** and **many of** with plural count nouns. Use **much** and **much of** with non-count nouns, which are singular.

### Example:

#### Plural count noun

- **Wrong:** Much of the refugees came from Rwanda.
- **Correct:** Many of the refugees came from Rwanda.

#### Singular, non-count noun

- **Wrong:** Many sufferings comes with war.
- **Correct:** Much suffering comes with war.
- **Wrong:** Jim uses too much sugars in his coffee.
- **Correct:** Jim uses too much sugar in his coffee.

## Rule 6:

Use **a few** with plural count nouns; use **a little** with non-count nouns, which are singular.

### Example:

#### Plural count noun:

- **Correct:** They read a few poems.

#### Singular, non-count noun:

- **Correct:** Try writing a little poetry.

## RULE 7:

Use **all**, **a lot of**, **most of**, and **more** with both plural count nouns and with non-count nouns, which are singular.

**Any** can be used with singular and plural nouns

### Example:

#### Plural Nouns:

- All citizens should vote.
- A lot of students were absent.
- Most of the men wore black.
- More doctors are needed.
- **Singular, Non-count Nouns**
- All racism is evil.
- They accumulated a lot of wealth.
- She gets most of her warmth from her mother.
- Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote more poetry than we know.

#### Singular:

- Any student can check out books.

#### Plural:

- We don't need any rules.

## Rule 8:

Use the pronouns **this** and **that** with singular nouns; use **these** and **those** with plural nouns:

### Examples:

- **Wrong:** This printers are not working.
- **Wrong:** This printer is not working.
- **Correct:** These printers are not working.

## Rule 9:

Do not make **adjectives** plural even when they describe plural nouns, whether they come before or after the nouns:

### Example:

- **Wrong:** The bests wines had already been drunk.
- **Correct:** The best wines had already been drunk.
  
- **Wrong:** The children were ills.
- **Correct:** The children were ill.
  
- **Wrong:** She worked in shoes factories.
- **Correct:** She worked in shoe factories.

This rule applies even when a noun acts as an adjective.

## Rule 10:

Use singular, not plural, nouns after phrases such as **a kind of**, **a type of**, **a sort of**, and **a style of**:

### Example:

- Sigmund preaches about a type of vegetarianism.
- Her home contains a style of furniture popular in the 1930s.

## Rule 11:

Use plural nouns after phrases such as **kinds of**, **types of**, **sorts of**, and **styles of**:

- **Correct:** I dislike the types of words he uses.
- **Correct:** What sorts of people do you think we are?
- **Wrong:** The store had all sorts of furnitures.
- **Correct:** I like his style of journalism.
- **Correct:** They studied three kinds of art.

Non-count nouns are **always** singular.