

11 Rules for Using Plurals

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| <p>RULE 1: a. Form plurals of regular nouns by adding <i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i>:</p> <p>b. Form the plurals of irregular nouns in ways other than adding <i>-s</i> or <i>-es</i>:</p> | <p>a. regular schools<u>s</u>, colleges<u>s</u>, cars, foxes<u>s</u>, candies<u>s</u>,</p> <p>*university→universities, boy→boys</p> <p>b. irregular: children, women, deer, geese</p> | <p>*If a word ends in <i>-y</i>, first change the <i>-y</i> to <i>-i</i>, then add <i>-es</i>.</p> <p>Do not change <i>-y</i> to <i>-ies</i> if the <i>y</i> is preceded by a vowel.</p> |
| <p>RULE 2: Remember that non-count nouns are always singular:</p> | <p>× The <u>equipments</u> are expensive. ✓ The <u>equipment</u> is expensive.</p> | <p>Don't forget that your verb should always agree with the subject!</p> |
| <p>RULE 3: Use plural nouns immediately after adjectives such as a few, many, most, and some, and after pronouns such as these and those:</p> | <p>× Most <u>student</u> like computers. ✓ Most <u>students</u> like computers.</p> <p>× These <u>tree</u> provide no shade. ✓ These <u>trees</u> provide no shade.</p> | |
| <p>RULE 4: Use plural nouns after adjective phrases beginning with one of the:</p> | <p>× Felix takes pride in being one of the most humble <u>member</u> of the Egotists Club. ✓ Felix takes pride in being one of the most humble <u>members</u> of the Egotists Club.</p> | |
| <p>RULE 5: Use many and many of with plural count nouns.</p> <p>Use much and much of with non-count nouns, which are singular</p> | <p>Plural count noun</p> <p>× <u>Much of the refugees</u> came from Rwanda. ✓ <u>Many of the refugees</u> came from Rwanda.</p> <p>Singular, non-count noun</p> <p>× <u>Many sufferings</u> comes with war. ✓ <u>Much suffering</u> comes with war. × Jim uses <u>too much sugars</u> in his coffee. ✓ Jim uses <u>too much sugar</u> in his coffee.</p> | |
| <p>RULE 6: Use a few with plural count nouns; use a little with non-count nouns, which are singular</p> | <p>Plural count noun: ✓ They read <u>a few poems</u>.</p> <p>Singular, non-count noun: ✓ Try writing <u>a little poetry</u>.</p> | |

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| <p>RULE 7: Use <i>all</i>, <i>a lot of</i>, <i>most of</i>, and <i>more</i> with both plural count nouns and with non-count nouns, which are singular</p> <p><i>Any</i> can be used with singular and plural nouns</p> | <p>Plural Nouns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>All citizens</u> should vote. ✓ <u>A lot of students</u> were absent. ✓ <u>Most of the men</u> wore black. ✓ <u>More doctors</u> are needed. <p>Singular, Non-count Nouns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>All racism</u> is evil. ✓ They accumulated <u>a lot of wealth</u>. ✓ She gets <u>most of her warmth</u> from her mother. ✓ Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote <u>more poetry</u> than we know. <p>Singular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>Any student</u> can check out books. <p>Plural:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ We don't need <u>any rules</u>. | |
| <p>RULE 8: Use the pronouns <i>this</i> and <i>that</i> with singular nouns; use <i>these</i> and <i>those</i> with plural nouns:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × <u>This printers</u> are not working. ✓ <u>This printer</u> is not working. ✓ <u>These printers</u> are not working. | |
| <p>RULE 9: Do not make adjectives plural even when they describe plural nouns, whether they come before or after the nouns:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × The <u>bests wines</u> had already been drunk. ✓ The <u>best wines</u> had already been drunk. × The children were <u>ills</u>. ✓ The children were <u>ill</u>. × She worked in <u>shoes factories</u>. ✓ She worked in <u>shoe factories</u>. | <p>This rule applies even when a noun acts as an adjective</p> |
| <p>RULE 10: Use singular, not plural, nouns after phrases such as <i>a kind of</i>, <i>a type of</i>, <i>a sort of</i>, and <i>a style of</i>:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sigmund preaches about <u>a type of vegetarianism</u>. ✓ Her home contains <u>a style of furniture</u> popular in the 1930s. | |
| <p>RULE 11: Use plural nouns after phrases such as <i>kinds of</i>, <i>types of</i>, <i>sorts of</i>, and <i>styles of</i>:</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ I dislike the <u>types of words</u> he uses. ✓ What <u>sorts of people</u> do you think we are? × The store had all <u>sorts of furnitures</u>. ✓ I like his style of <u>journalism</u>. ✓ They studied three <u>kinds of art</u>. | <p>Non-count nouns are always singular.</p> |