# 11 Rules for Using Plurals

## Rule 1:

- **Regular Nouns:** Form plurals by adding *-s* or *-es*:
  - schools, colleges, cars, foxes, candies.
  - *university* → *universities*, *boy* → *boys*

- **Irregular Nouns:** Form the plurals in ways other than adding *-s* or *-es*:
  - 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:

- **Non-count Nouns:** Remember that non-count nouns are always singular:
  - *The equipments* are expensive.
  - *The equipment* is expensive.

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

## Rule 3:

- **Adjectives and Pronouns:** Use plural nouns immediately after adjectives such as *a few*, *many*, *most*, and *some*, and after pronouns such as *these* and *those*:
  - *Most student* like computers.
  - *Most students* like computers.
  - *These tree* provide no shade.
  - *These trees* provide no shade.

## Rule 4:

- **Adjective Phrases:** Use plural nouns after adjective phrases beginning with *one of the*:
  - *Felix takes pride in being one of the most humble member of the Egotists Club.*
  - *Felix takes pride in being one of the most humble members of the Egotists Club.*

## Rule 5:

- **Many and Many of:** Use many and many of with plural count nouns.

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

  - **Plural Count Noun:**
    - *Much of the refugees* came from Rwanda.
    - *Many of the refugees* came from Rwanda.

  - **Singular, Non-Count Noun:**
    - *Many sufferings* comes with war.
    - *Much suffering* comes with war.
    - *Jim uses too much sugars* in his coffee.
    - *Jim uses too much sugar* in his coffee.

## Rule 6:

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

  - **Plural Count Noun:**
    - *They read a few poems.*

  - **Singular, Non-Count Noun:**
    - *Try writing a little poetry.*
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| **RULE 7:** Use *all, a lot of, most of,* and *more* with both plural count nouns and with non-count nouns, which are singular. | ✓ *All citizens* should vote.  
✓ *A lot of students* were absent.  
✓ *Most of the men* wore black.  
✓ *More doctors* are needed. | ✓ *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. | ✓ *Any student* can check out books. | ✓ We don't need *any rules*. |

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

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| **RULE 8:** Use the pronouns *this* and *that* with singular nouns; use *these* and *those* with plural nouns. | × *This printers* are not working.  
✓ *This* printer is not working.  
✓ *These printers* are not working. | ✓ The *best wines* had already been drunk.  
✓ *The best wines* had already been drunk. | × *The children* were ills.  
✓ The children were *ill*.  
✓ She worked in *shoe factories*.  
✓ She worked in *shoe factories*. | This rule applies even when a noun acts as an adjective. |

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| **RULE 9:** Do not make *adjectives* plural even when they describe plural nouns, whether they come before or after the nouns. | × *The bests wines* had already been drunk.  
✓ *The best wines* had already been drunk. | ✓ *The best wines* had already been drunk.  
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| **RULE 10:** Use singular, not plural, nouns after phrases such as *a kind of, a type of, a sort of,* and *a style of*: | ✓ Sigmund preaches about *a type of vegetarianism*.  
✓ Her home contains *a style of furniture* popular in the 1930s. | ✓ Sigmund preaches about *a type of vegetarianism*.  
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| **RULE 11:** Use plural nouns after phrases such as *kinds of, types of, sorts of,* and *styles of*: | ✓ I dislike the *types of words* he uses.  
✓ *What sorts of people* do you think we are?  
× The store had *all sorts of furnitures*.  
✓ I like his style of *journalism*.  
✓ They studied three *kinds of art*. | ✓ I dislike the *types of words* he uses.  
✓ *What sorts of people* do you think we are?  
× The store had *all sorts of furnitures*.  
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