

One Book, Two Books, Many Books

Lesson 5 · Plural Nouns · A1 · 30 minutes

A1

GRAM
MAR

BEGIN
NER

30 MIN

★ **In this lesson you will learn to:**

- Add **-s** to form regular plurals (book → books)
- Apply spelling rules: **-es, -ies, -ves**
- Use irregular plurals: **men, women, children, feet, people**
- Describe people and things using plural nouns
- Tell the difference between **singular** and **plural**

1 Warm-Up: One or Many?

In English, most nouns change shape when we talk about **more than one**. We call this the *plural* form. Let's compare ONE vs MANY.

ONE

(singular)

a **book**
a **pen**
a **friend**
a **city**
a **man**

MANY

(plural)

two **books**
ten **pens**
three **friends**
five **cities**
two **men**

★ **Today's key idea:** Most plurals just add **-s**. But some words have special spelling rules (*cities, knives*), and a few are totally irregular (*men, children, feet*). Let's visit Camden Market and spot them all!

2 Saturday at Camden Market

It's Saturday. Anna, Marco and Yuki go with Mr Brown to Camden Market in London. Look for all the **singular** and **plural** forms.

A busy London market. Stalls, music, colourful crowds.

Mr Brown Welcome, everyone! Camden Market has hundreds of **stalls** and lots of **people**. Use your English today!

Anna Wow, so many **shops**! And look — some **children** are playing with their **dogs**.

Marco I see **boxes** of fruit everywhere. **Tomatoes, strawberries, cherries...** I am hungry!

Yuki I need a **scarf** for my mum. No — two **scarves**! One for mum and one for me.

Mr Brown Good idea. That stall has beautiful **scarves** and also some nice **dishes**.

Vendor Hello! Three **scarves** for fifteen **pounds**. Very good price!

Anna How much are these **dishes**? My sister collects old **dishes**.

Vendor Four **dishes** for ten **pounds**. They are from different **cities** in England!

Marco Look! Two **men** and one **woman** are playing guitars. Wonderful **musicians**!

Yuki Yes, and I can see three small **children** dancing. So cute!

Mr Brown Are you hungry? Let's find some **sandwiches**. I know a place with twenty different **sandwiches**!

Marco Great. I want **crisps** too — different **flavours**: cheese, onion, salt and vinegar.

Yuki Please get **knives** and **forks**. I can't eat with my **feet**!

Anna (laughing) Three hungry **friends**, one perfect Saturday. I love **markets**!

■ **singular** = one ■ **regular plural** = +s / +es / -ies / -ves ■ **irregular** = men, women, children, feet

3 Camden Market Words

20 nouns from today's trip. Notice how each plural is formed.

Singular (one)	Plural (many)	Rule
a book	books	just + s
a pen	pens	just + s
a shop	shops	just + s
a bag	bags	just + s
a bus	buses	ends in -s → + es
a box	boxes	ends in -x → + es
a dish	dishes	ends in -sh → + es
a watch	watches	ends in -ch → + es
a glass	glasses	ends in -ss → + es
a tomato	tomatoes	ends in -o → + es
a city	cities	consonant + y → ies
a family	families	consonant + y → ies
a story	stories	consonant + y → ies
a party	parties	consonant + y → ies
a knife	knives	-fe → ves
a scarf	scarves	-f → ves
a leaf	leaves	-f → ves
a man	men	irregular
a woman	women	irregular
a child	children	irregular

4 Grammar Focus: Plurals in 3 Steps

Three boxes — from easy to tricky. **Box C is the one to memorise!**

▶ A. The Easy Rule: Just Add -s

Most nouns make their plural by simply adding **-s**. No spelling change, no drama.

Singular	Plural	Count it!
book	book + s = books	<i>one book, two books</i>
pen	pen + s = pens	<i>a pen, three pens</i>
shop	shop + s = shops	<i>a shop, many shops</i>
friend	friend + s = friends	<i>one friend, five friends</i>
day	day + s = days	<i>a day, seven days</i>

! Good news: About **80%** of English nouns follow this simple rule. When in doubt, just try **+s** first!

★ B. Spelling Rules: -es, -ies, -ves

Some words need a small spelling change before we add the ending. There are **three** main patterns:

When word ends in...	Rule	Examples
-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, -o	Add -es	bus → buses , box → boxes , dish → dishes , watch → watches , tomato → tomatoes
consonant + y	Change y to i + es	city → cities , baby → babies , story → stories , family → families
-f or -fe	Change f to v + es	knife → knives , leaf → leaves , scarf → scarves , wife → wives

! Small warning: If a word ends in **vowel + y** (a, e, i, o, u + y), DON'T change the y. Just add -s: *boy* → *boys*, *day* → *days*, *key* → *keys*, *toy* → *toys*.

X C. Irregular Plurals — Learn by Heart!

These nouns break all the rules. You must **memorise** them — they are very common in English.

Singular		Plural
man	→	men
woman	→	women
child	→	children
person	→	people
foot	→	feet
tooth	→	teeth
mouse	→	mice

✓ **Bonus:** Some nouns are **the same** in singular and plural: *fish* → *fish*, *sheep* → *sheep*, *aircraft* → *aircraft*. No change at all!

5 Game: Make It Plural!

10 words. Circle the correct plural form. (Answer key at the end.)

#	Word	Option A	Option B	Option C
1	book	bookes	books	bookies
2	box	boxs	boxes	boxies
3	child	childs	children	children
4	city	citys	cities	cityes
5	knife	knifes	knives	knife
6	bus	bus	buses	busies
7	man	mans	men	manes
8	party	partys	partyes	parties
9	leaf	leafs	leaves	leafies
10	foot	foots	feets	feet

★ Answer Key: 1. **books** · 2. **boxes** · 3. **children** · 4. **cities** · 5. **knives** · 6. **buses**
· 7. **men** · 8. **parties** · 9. **leaves** · 10. **feet**

6 Quick Check: Pick the Right Plural

6 questions. Circle your answer. (Check at the end of the quiz.)

1. What is the plural of "woman"?

- A. womans
- B. womens
- C. women

2. Which sentence is correct?

- A. I have three childs.
- B. I have three children.
- C. I have three childes.

3. How do we make "city" plural?

- A. Just add -s: citys
- B. Change y to i + es: cities
- C. Add -es: cityes

4. Which is the correct plural of "knife"?

- A. knives
- B. knives
- C. knifs

5. What is the plural of "box"?

- A. boxs
- B. boxes
- C. boxies

6. Which plural is IRREGULAR (breaks the rules)?

- A. books (from book)
- B. dishes (from dish)
- C. feet (from foot)

★ Quiz Answer Key: 1. C · 2. B · 3. B · 4. B · 5. B · 6. C

7 Fill in the Blanks

Anna tells her diary about Camden Market. Write the correct **plural form** of the word in brackets.

1. She sees many ___ on the street. (**shop**)

2. Marco buys three ___ for his lunch. (**tomato**)

3. Yuki looks at two beautiful ___ for her mum. (**scarf**)

4. Many ___ are playing in the square. (**child**)

5. Mr Brown is chatting with two ___. (**man**)

6. They eat ___ with cheese and ham. (**sandwich**)

7. Anna says, "My ___ are tired!" (**foot**)

8. The market has so many lovely ___ to buy. (**thing**)

★ **Answer Key:**

1. **shops** · 2. **tomatoes** · 3. **scarves** · 4. **children** · 5. **men** · 6. **sandwiches** · 7. **feet** · 8. **things**

8 Your Turn: Speaking & Writing

Use plurals to talk and write about **YOUR** world.

► Speaking Task: People in Your Life

Work with a partner. Ask each other about the people close to you. **Use plurals!**

Example dialogue:

A: How many **brothers** and **sisters** do you have?

B: I have two **brothers** and one sister.

A: What about **cousins**?

B: I have five **cousins**. And three **aunts** and two **uncles**.

A: Big family! Do you have **friends** in London?

B: Yes, I have two good **women friends** and three **men**.

Prompts to try:

- How many people are in your family?
- Do you have pets? How many? (cats, dogs, fish, mice...)
- How many friends do you meet every week?
- Are there children in your family?

► Writing Task: My 5 Favourite Things

Write **5 sentences** about things you love. Each sentence must use a **plural noun**. Start: "*I love...*" or "*I have...*"

Example:

I love **books** about history. I have many old **photos** of my family. I collect small **boxes** from different **cities**. I have three **watches** — they are all gifts. My mum makes wonderful **sandwiches!**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

★ Lesson Complete!

- ✓ I can add **-s** to form regular plurals
- ✓ I know the spelling rules: **-es, -ies, -ves**
- ✓ I know irregular plurals: **men, women, children, feet, people**
- ✓ I can describe my family, friends and favourite things