


ESL - 2

Singular and Plural Nouns in English

-  Nouns can be either **singular** or **plural**. They are singular if they stand for only one thing. They are plural if they stand for more than one thing.

How to Make Nouns Plural

Most nouns can be made plural by adding **-s** or **-es** to the end of the word.


Singular	Plural
dog	dogs
chair	chairs
class	classes
lunch	lunches
horse	horses

Many nouns that end in **-y** are made plural by replacing the **-y** with **-ies**.


Singular	Plural
baby	babies
story	stories
lady	ladies

BUT if there is a vowel before the **-y**, then the word is made plural in the regular way, by adding **-s** to the end of the word.

Singular	Plural
key	keys
boy	boys
toy	toys


-  If you are not sure how to make a noun plural, you can find out by looking it up in a dictionary.

Nouns that are never plural

 Some nouns are always written the same way whether they are singular or plural. Here are a few:

Singular	Plural
fish	fish
sheep	sheep
deer	deer


Most of these stand for animals.

 A noun is **noncount** if it cannot be counted. Here are some noncount nouns:

happiness

electricity

homework

 Noncount nouns are always singular. Since they cannot be counted, it would be incorrect to make them plural or talk about them with number words.

X happinesses

X two electricities

X three homeworks