

THE PLURAL

1) Singular + **s**

parrot – parrots

apple – apples

girl – girls

2) Words ending with **y** if a consonant is written before ⇒ **ies**

lolly – lollies

story – stories

strawberry – strawberries

But: boy – boys, bay – bays

3) Words ending with **ch, x, s, sh, o** ⇒ **es**

class – classes

box – boxes

brush – brushes

4) Some words ending with **f, fe, lf** ⇒ **ves**

knife – knives

wolf – wolves

life – lives

But: chiefs, safes, cliffs, handkerchiefs

5) Irregular forms

man – men

woman – women

tooth – teeth

foot – feet

mouse – mice

child – children

goose – geese

ox – oxen

louse – lice

person – people

sheep – sheep

deer – deer

bison – bison

fish – fish

moose – moose

offspring – offspring

You can use **singular or plural** with words like family, class, police, team, army, band, choir, class, club, crew, company, firm, gang, government, orchestra, party, staff, etc.

In British English the plural is used more often than in American English.

If the group acts in unison (as a group), use a **singular verb**:

My family **lives** in Miami.

The team **was** successful.

All the members living under one roof.

You see the team as a group.

If the group acts individually, use a **plural verb**:

My family **live** in towns all over Florida.

The team **were** successful.

Each individual is living a separate life in a different town.

You see the single members of the team