

Making plurals of nouns that end in “F” and “FE”

A. Some nouns that end in “f”, “ffe”, and “fe”; form their plural by simply adding “s”.

cliff → cliffs

giraffe → giraffes

reef → reefs

chef → chefs

chief → chiefs

handcuff → handcuffs

B. With some nouns that end in “f”, or “fe”, you remove the(f) or (fe) and add “ves” to make the noun plural.

Exercise 1

Fill in the singular nouns.

	 ELVES		 ROOVES
	 CALVES		 LOAVES
	 KNIVES		 SHELVES

Exercise 2 Make each noun plural. Drop the “F” of the singular noun. Add “VES”.

a) life		g) penknife	
b) half		h) shelf	
c) hoof		i) loaf	
d) leaf		j) wife	
e) thief		k) self	
f) scarf		l) ourself	

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Exercise 3.

My mom keeps all of the sharp _____ out of
my reach.

2. I am scared of bulls but I think _____ are
cute.

3. I have seven _____ of books in my room.

4. In the fall I like to help my dad rake the
_____.

5. There are two _____ in a whole.

6. You need a lot of _____ of bread for sandwiches
for hungry boys!

7. Horses have sharp _____