

THE PLURAL

1) Singular **+s**

parrot – parrots apple – apples girl – girls

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

lolly – lollies story – stories strawberry – strawberries

But: boy – boys, bay – bays

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

class – classes box – boxes brush – brushes

4) Some words ending with **f, fe, If** \Rightarrow **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