

Words from Latin or Greek

Words that originally came from Latin or Greek come to be used in English have irregular plural forms. These patterns can be challenging and must be memorised.

Nevertheless people usually start forming plurals by adding -s or -es. For example now people use the plural forms 'stadiums', 'viruses' and 'campuses'.

If a singular noun ends in...

A plural noun ends in.....

-A

-AE

-IS

-ES

-US

-I

-UM

-A

-EX or -IX

-ICES

-ON

-A

SINGULAR

PLURAL

VERTEBRA
BASIS
DATUM
CACTUS
BACTERIUM
FUNGUS
APPENDIX
CRITERION
ALGA