



COMPOUND NOUNS AND THEIR PLURALS

1. In a **noun + noun** combination the ending -s, -es is added to the second noun.
e.g. girlfriends, flower beds
2. In a **gerund + noun** combination the ending -s, -es is added to the noun, too.
e.g. sleeping beauties, dressing gowns
3. In a **preposition + noun** or **noun + preposition** combination the plural ending is put on the noun.
e.g. passers-by, outlaws, editors-in-chief
4. If there is no **noun** present in the combination the plural ending is added to the last word.
e.g. forget-me-nots, grown-ups, lay-overs, merry-go-rounds
5. Compounds with **man** and **woman** form their plurals only in the second word:
man apes, manholes, woman-haters.

Write the plurals of the following compound nouns

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| 1. <u>brief case</u> | 14. <u>high way</u> | 27. <u>running mate</u> |
| 2. <u>wishbone</u> | 15. <u>court martial</u> | 28. <u>antipode</u> |
| 3. <u>step son</u> | 16. <u>on-looker</u> | 29. <u>close-up</u> |
| 4. <u>nick name</u> | 17. <u>out-stay</u> | 30. <u>lily-of-the-valley</u> |
| 5. <u>alarm-clock</u> | 18. <u>handful</u> | 31. <u>shut-in</u> |
| 6. <u>shut down</u> | 19. <u>maid-of-honor</u> | 32. <u>finger painting</u> |
| 7. <u>pass word</u> | 20. <u>vice principal</u> | 33. <u>spoonful</u> |
| 8. <u>touch-me-not</u> | 21. <u>ironing board</u> | 34. <u>board of education</u> |
| 9. <u>spinning wheel</u> | 22. <u>step father</u> | 35. <u>passer-by</u> |
| 10. <u>take off</u> | 23. <u>ponytail</u> | 36. <u>out patient</u> |
| 11. <u>hanger-on</u> | 24. <u>notary public</u> | 37. <u>mini bike</u> |
| 12. <u>man-of-war</u> | 25. <u>half sister</u> | 38. <u>attorney general</u> |
| 13. <u>horse race</u> | 26. <u>good-for-nothing</u> | |

Choose the variant that best completes each sentence.

- 1) It was a sight to see four lieutenants general lieutenant generals fight it out at the table.
- 2) He now has two mothers-in-law mother-in-laws.
- 3) There were 3 spoonsful spoonfuls of honey left in the jar.
- 4) Are they the knows-it-all know-it-alls in your class?
- 5) You'll often meet them at the shows-off show-offs.
- 6) Have you ever participated in sits-in sit-ins ?
- 7) Why did he take pictures of the onlookers onlooker ?
- 8) How many heads of state head of states participated at the annual reunion?
- 9) They are good-for-nothings goods-for-nothing; you can't rely on them.
- 10) The attorney-generals attorneys general present at the meeting signed the agreement.
- 11) I like neither takes-off take offs nor landings.
- 12) They have got a two-year-old two-years-old girl.