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

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

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 onslooker ?

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.