

1 Singular and plural nouns

1 Nouns

A noun is a person, a place or a thing:
a waiter a town a pizza a melon
an apple an egg a steak

In writing, names of people, places, days, months, etc. begin with a capital letter:

John Smith Mr Brown
Vancouver Oxford Street
Saturday September May Day



2 Singular and plural nouns

Most nouns can be singular (one) or plural (more than one):

SINGULAR	<i>a pizza</i>	<i>a melon</i>	<i>a banana</i>	<i>an apple</i>	<i>an egg</i>
PLURAL	<i>two pizzas</i>	<i>three melons</i>	<i>four bananas</i>	<i>five apples</i>	<i>some eggs</i>

We usually add -s to a singular noun to make it plural, but some nouns are different:

NOUNS THAT END IN		PLURAL
s, ss, sh, ch, and x (and potato, tomato)	add -es	buses, classes, dishes, watches, boxes, potatoes
consonant (b, c, d, etc.) + y (ay, ey, oy)	change y to i and add -es (add -s)	families, babies, countries days, valleys, toys
f or fe	change f to v and add -es	loaves, wives, scarves

The plural form of a few nouns is different. We call these irregular nouns:

SINGULAR	<i>man</i>	<i>woman</i>	<i>child</i>	<i>person</i>	<i>foot</i>	<i>tooth</i>	<i>penny</i>	<i>fish</i>	<i>sheep</i>
PLURAL	<i>men</i>	<i>women</i>	<i>children</i>	<i>people</i>	<i>feet</i>	<i>teeth</i>	<i>pence</i>	<i>fish</i>	<i>sheep</i>

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3 Noun + verb

We use different verb forms with singular and plural nouns:

singular noun + singular verb
Our teacher is British.
The bus leaves at 8.30.

plural noun + plural verb
Those students are Japanese.
The buses leave from the town centre.

Some nouns are always plural:

clothes
jeans
shorts
scissors
trousers
(reading) glasses

We can also say:

a pair of jeans a pair of shorts a pair of scissors

These trousers are long.



Your glasses are on your head.



Practice

1 Write the plural form of the nouns.

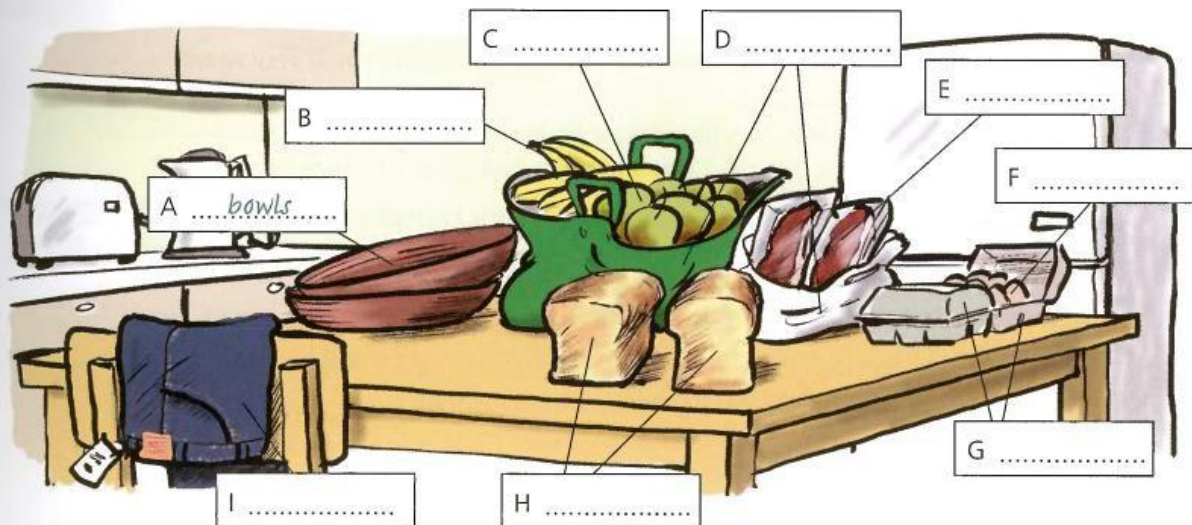
+ -s	+ -es	+ -ies	+ -ves	irregular
		babies		

baby box car child
 class country day
 exercise family foot
 loaf man scarf
 watch wife

2 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| 0 1 My brothers | → | A walks to work. |
| 2 My brother | → | B walk to work. |
| 1 1 Our English teacher | | A come from London. |
| 2 Our English teachers | | B comes from London. |
| 2 1 The children | | A is sick in bed. |
| 2 Jan's child | | B are sick in bed. |
| 3 1 My feet | | A are hurting. |
| 2 My foot | | B is hurting. |
| 4 1 Your reading glasses | | A is on the table. |
| 2 Your glass of water | | B are on the table. |

3 Write the plural form of the nouns in the picture.



4 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the note with nouns from Exercise 3 or a form of the verb be.

Sorry, James – I'm going to see Mum because she's not well.
 Can you put the shopping away? Thanks.
 The steaks (0)are..... for dinner tonight, so can you put them in the fridge?
 Can you take the eggs out of the (1) and put them in the fridge, too?
 There are some (2) and (3) in the green bag – put
 them in the two (4) on the table. There are two (5) of
 bread, too – can you put one of them in the fridge, please? The jeans
 (6) for Simon – can you put them in his room?
 See you later – I hope the interview was OK. Maureen