

Definitions and Rules

- ▶ A **consonant blend** is two or more consonants that come together in a word. Their sounds blend together, but each sound is heard—**black, train, spring, fast, lamp**.
- ▶ A **consonant digraph** consists of two consonants that together represent one sound—**when, thin, this, church, sheep, pack, know, white**.
- ▶ A **vowel pair** consists of two vowels that come together to make one long vowel sound. The first vowel stands for the long sound and the second vowel is silent—**boat, tree, pie**.
- ▶ A **vowel digraph** consists of two vowels together that can make a long or short sound, or have a special sound all their own—**school, book, bread, auto, eight**.
- ▶ A **diphthong** consists of two vowels blended together to make one sound—**cloud, boy, oil, cow, new**.
- ▶ **Synonyms** are words that have the same or almost the same meaning—**glad-happy**.
- ▶ **Antonyms** are words that are opposite or almost opposite in meaning—**hot-cold**.
- ▶ **Homonyms** are words that sound alike but have different meanings and usually different spellings—**sent-cent**.
- ▶ A **base word** is a word to which a prefix or suffix may be added to form a new word—**printer, unpack, likely**.
- ▶ A **suffix** is a word part that is added at the end of a base word to change the base word's meaning or the way it is used—**sprinter, darkness, helpful**.
- ▶ A **prefix** is a word part that is added at the beginning of a base word to change the base word's meaning or to form a new word—**recycle, unwrap, disappear, mislay**.
- ▶ **Short-Vowel Rule:** If a word or syllable has only one vowel and it comes at the beginning or between two consonants, the vowel usually stands for the short sound—**ant, win, tub, fox, net**.

- ▶ **Long-Vowel Rule 1:** If one syllable has two vowels, the first vowel usually stands for the long sound, and the second vowel is silent—**rain, kite, glue, goat, leaf**.
- ▶ **Long-Vowel Rule 2:** If a word or syllable has one vowel and it comes at the end of the word or syllable, the vowel is usually long—**we, go, pony**.
- ▶ **Y as a Vowel Rule:**
 - 1) When **y** is the only vowel at the end of a syllable or a word of one syllable, **y** has the long **i** sound—**fly, by**.
 - 2) When **y** is the only vowel at the end of a word or more than one syllable, **y** usually has the long **e** sound—**silly, baby**.
- ▶ **Soft c and g Rule:** When **c** or **g** is followed by **e, i, or y**, it usually has a soft sound—**ice, city, change, gym**.
- ▶ **To make a word plural:**
 - 1) Usually just add **s**—**cats, dogs, kites**.
 - 2) If a word ends in **ss, x, ch, or sh**, usually add **es**—**dresses, foxes, peaches, brushes**.
 - 3) If a word ends in **y** preceded by a consonant, change the **y** to **i** and add **es**—**flies, fairies**. If **y** is preceded by a vowel, just add **s**—**jays, boys**.
 - 4) If a word ends in **f** or **fe**, usually change the **f** or **fe** to **v** and add the suffix **es**—**wolf/wolves, knife/knives**.
- ▶ **To add other suffixes:**
 - 1) When a word with a short vowel ends in a single consonant, usually double the consonant before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel—**running, hummed, batter**.
 - 2) When a word ends in silent **e**, drop the **e** before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel—**baking, taped, latest**.
 - 3) When a word ends in **y** preceded by a consonant, change the **y** to **i** before adding a suffix other than **ing**—**crying, cried, happily, funnier, ponies, trying**.



COMMON SPELLING RULES

DOUBLE THE FINAL CONSONANT

- ▲ Double the final consonant in a word that ends in a single consonant preceded by a vowel when adding a suffix beginning with a vowel.

Examples: begin + ing - beginning, jog + ed - jogged

DROP THE SILENT E

- ▲ Drop the **silent e** when adding a suffix beginning with a vowel to a word ending in a **silent e**.

Examples: Write + ing - writing, fame + ous - famous

KEEP THE SILENT E

- ▲ Keep the **silent e** when adding the suffix **able**, **ance**, or **ous** to a word ending in soft **ce** or **ge**.

Examples: notice + **able** - noticeable, courage + **ous** - courageous

- ▲ Keep the **silent e**, as well, when adding a suffix beginning with a consonant to a word ending in **silent e**.

Examples: complete + ly - completely, safe + ty - safety

CHANGE THE Y TO I

- ▲ Change the **y** to **i** when adding a suffix to a word ending in a **y** preceded by a consonant.

Examples: lonely + ness - loneliness, easy + ly - easily

I BEFORE E EXCEPT AFTER C

- ▲ Place **i** before **e** except after **c**. In other words, place **e** before **i** after **c**. This rule works in words in which **i** and **e** are pronounced as **ee**.

Examples: believe, achieve, receive, receipt, yield, thief, niece

E BEFORE I

- ▲ If the pronunciation of **ei** is a long **a**, place **e** before **i**.

Examples: sleigh, weight, reign, neighbor, freight

PARTS OF SPEECH

ADJECTIVE

Any word that modifies, describes, or adds to the meaning of a noun.

Examples: The old man wore a blue hat.

ADVERB

Any word that describes or adds to the meaning of a verb, adjective, or other adverb.

An adverb tells how, why, when, where, and in what manner an action takes place.

Examples: The baby cried Impatiently as his mother hurriedly went to get his milk bottle.

The students ran quickly to their classrooms.

CONJUNCTION

Conjunctions are joining or linking words. There are two types of conjunctions.

Coordinating conjunctions: These connect sentence parts equal in rank, single words, phrases, or clauses. They are the following: and, but, yet, or, nor, for, so, both, not only, either, and neither.

Example: Study tonight, and tomorrow you will feel ready for the math test.

Subordinating conjunctions: These join two clauses, the main and the subordinate (dependent) clause. It is a joining word that expresses a relationship between two ideas that are not equal in rank. One idea can stand as a sentence, whereas the one introduced by the subordinating conjunction cannot stand as a sentence by itself. Some examples are after, though, as long as, as soon as, because, before, even though, once, since, until, and so forth.

Example: Although you don't deserve it, I will continue to help you with your homework.

NOUN

Words that name people, places, and things.

Proper nouns: name specific people, places, and things. These words should be capitalized.

Examples: Laura, Mississippi, Thursday, Easter

Common nouns: refer to general names for a number of things, such as father, house, boy.

PRONOUN

Words that may be used in place of nouns. I, you, he, she, it, we, and they, are some examples.

Examples: They went to fix it as soon as he gave them the permission.

VERB

Words that show action or a state of being. (The man nodded his head because he was content.)

PREPOSITION

Words that show how a noun or pronoun relates to another word. They often indicate position.

Example: He placed his sword on the ground.

Into, at, behind, above, before, near, toward, under, and beside are other examples of prepositions.

Reproducible Pattern

SNEAKY SILENT LETTERS

Some letters are as silent as a ninja. If the silent letter disappeared, the word would still sound the same!

Silent H
character
chemist
choir
chorus
echo
heir
honest
hour
school
stomach

Silent G
align
assign
cologne
design
gnat
gnaw
gnarl
gnome
reign
sign

Silent B
bomb
climb
comb
crumb
debt
doubt
lamb
limb
numb
plumber
thumb
tomb

Silent T
butcher
castle
fasten
glisten
listen
match
mortgage
often
scratch
soften
thistle
watch

Silent K
knack
knee
knew
knickers
knife
knight
knit
knob
knock
knot
know
knuckle

Silent S
aisle
debris
island

Silent C
click
muscle
scene
science
scissors

Ninja Tip!

The letter **c** is usually a hard sound unless it is followed by an **e** like in **cent**. However, when **c** follows an **i**, it is usually silent like in **city**.

SHHH!



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COMMON WORD ENDINGS

-ANT

abundant
distant
instant

-ENCE

confidence
dependence
silence

-ARY

dictionary
honorary
imaginary

-DOM

freedom
kingdom
wisdom

-MENT

accomplishment
disappointment
equipment

-TURE

fixture
mixture
signature

-ION

communion
complexion
opinion

-TION

action
attraction
education

-ISE

advertise
exercise

-ANCE

abundance
distance
instance

-ABLE

available
believable
changeable

-ERY

archery
bravery
lottery

-ER

laborer
manager
teacher

-NESS

friendliness
happiness
loneliness

-URE

adventure
creature
moisture

-ITION

addition
competition
repetition

-IOUS

furious
mysterious
rebellious

-IZE

apologize
memorize

-ENT

confident
dependent
silent

-IBLE

digestible
flexible
sensible

-ORY

circulatory
laboratory
sensory

-IAN

comedian
electrician
politician

-OR

creator
mediator
spectator

-ATION

aviation
information
reservation

-SION

collision
confession
television

-OUS

disastrous
joyous
nervous

-LESS

pointless
careless

COMMON PREFIXES

MEANING: NOT

a-	dis-
aseptic	disappear
asymmetrical	discourage
atypical	dislike

il-	im-
illegal	immoral
illegible	impossible
illogical	impure

in-	ir-
inaccurate	irrational
inexperienced	irrefutable
incoherent	irregular

non-	un-
nonaligned	uncomfortable
nonconformist	unconditional
nonprofit	unconscious
nonsense	undecided

NUMBERS

uni- (one, single)	bi- (two, double)
unicorn	bicentennial
unicycle	bicycle
unison	bifocal

tri- (three)	semi- (half, partly)
triangle	semiannual
triceps	semicircle
tricycle	semiconscious

DIRECTION

inter- (between, among)	
intercept	international
interfere	interplanetary

sub- (under)	
submarine	subtitle
submerge	subtract

trans- (across, over, beyond)	
transform	transplant
transfusion	transport

OPPOSITE PREFIXES

pro- & anti-

pro- (forward in space and time, in support of)	
procedure	progress
produce	project

anti- (against, opposite, or opposed)	
antibiotic	antifreeze
antidote	antisocial

pre- & post-

pre- (before)	
preamble	precede
prearrange	predecessor
precaution	predict

post- (after)	
postdate	postnatal
postgraduate	postpone
posthumous	postscript



CONTRACTIONS

A contraction is a shortened form of two words. It is created when one or more letters are removed and replaced by an apostrophe. Contractions are most often used in informal or semiformal writing.

CONTRACTION	Comes from
doesn't	does not
don't	do not
hadn't	had not
hasn't	has not
haven't	have not
he'd	he would, he had
he's	he is, he has
here's	here is
I'll	I will
I'm	I am
I've	I have
isn't	is not
it'll	it will
it's	it is, it has
let's	let us
mustn't	must not
she'd	she would, she had

CONTRACTION	Comes from
she's	she is, she has
shouldn't	should not
that's	that is
they'd	they would, they had
they'll	they will
they're	they are
they've	they have
you'd	you would, you had
you'll	you will
you're	you are
you've	you have
we'd	we would, we had
we've	we have
where's	where is, where has
who's	who is, who has
wouldn't	would not
won't	will not

PUNCTUATION AT A GLANCE

APOSTROPHE ’

Use an apostrophe to show possession with a proper noun, common noun, indefinite pronoun, period of time, and sum of money. An apostrophe is also used to act as a placeholder for a missing letter and when constructing contractions.

Examples: (a) Laura's science notebook (b) Anyone's guess (c) Today's proverb (d) Seven dollar's worth (e) Fun 'n' games (f) He isn't here.

COLON :

Use a colon to introduce a list, to introduce an end portion of a sentence that is an explanation, after an introductory classification, and after the salutation in a business letter.

Examples: (a) Supplies: (list follows) (b) I learned the following: My skills were rusty and I was out of shape. (c) The Sahara made me think of one thing: water! (d) Dear Mr. Dobs:

SEMICOLON ;

Use a semicolon to lengthen or expand an original thought, to group items in series that contain commas, and in compound sentences preceding the adverbs *then*, *however*, *thus*, *hence*, *indeed*, *accordingly*, *besides*, and *therefore*.

Examples: (a) My new strategy did not work; the attempt to win by irritating my opponent had failed entirely. (b) His family has homes in Bar Harbor, Maine; Paris, France; and Detroit, Michigan. (c) She wants to major in French; however, she can't meet the requirements.

PERIOD, EXCLAMATION MARK, QUESTION MARK . ! ?

Every written sentence must end with a period, exclamation mark, or question mark. A period marks the end of a normal sentence that is not a question and is not emphatic. It is also placed at the end of an abbreviation. An exclamation mark is used at the end of sentences in which the writer means to show strong emphasis or emotion. A question mark is used to close a question.

COMMA ,

Use a comma to separate all items in a series; between two independent clauses joined by *and*, *but*, *or*, *nor*, *for*, *yet*, or *so*; with appositives (nouns that repeat, explain, or stand in for other nouns); and after introductory adverbial phrases.

Examples: (a) The flag is green, brown, and white. (b) I'd love to go with you, but I have to clean up my room. (c) Chloe, my dog, is black and white. (d) After the appetizer and soup, we were too full for the main course!

QUOTATION MARKS “ ”

Use quotation marks to enclose a direct quotation. Commas and periods go *inside* closing quotation marks. Exclamation marks and question marks go inside closing quotation marks if they are part of the original quotation; otherwise, they go outside.

Example: (a) "Please feed the dog," said mother. (b) "Clean your room!" ordered his father. (c) Did you really say, "Absolutely not"?

Capital Letters

A word that starts with a **capital letter** is special in some way.

Always use a **capital letter** to begin:

the first word of a sentence:	Today is the first day of school.								
the first word of a quotation:	She said, "Today is the first day of school."								
the salutation (greeting) and closing in a letter:	Dear Grandma, Thanks so much for the birthday gift! Love, Sherry								
the names of days, months, and holidays:	The fourth Thursday in November is Thanksgiving.								
people's first and last names, their initials, and their titles:	<p>Mrs. Cruz and her son Felix were both seen by Dr. S. C. Lee.</p> <p>Note: Many titles can be abbreviated. Use these abbreviations only when you also use the person's name:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Mr. a man</td><td>Capt. a captain</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mrs. a married woman</td><td>Lt. a lieutenant</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ms. a woman</td><td>Pres. the president of a country or an organization</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dr. a doctor</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Mr. a man	Capt. a captain	Mrs. a married woman	Lt. a lieutenant	Ms. a woman	Pres. the president of a country or an organization	Dr. a doctor	
Mr. a man	Capt. a captain								
Mrs. a married woman	Lt. a lieutenant								
Ms. a woman	Pres. the president of a country or an organization								
Dr. a doctor									
a word that is used as a name:	<p>I went with Dad and Aunt Terry to visit Grandma.</p> <p>Be Careful! Do not use a capital letter at the beginning of a word when it is not used as someone's name:</p> <p>I went with my dad and my aunt to visit my grandma.</p> <p>Hint: If you can replace the word with a name, it needs a capital letter: I went with <u>Dad</u>. → I went with <u>Joe</u>.</p>								
the word that names yourself - I:	My family and I enjoy camping together.								

Capital Letters (continued)

the names of nationalities and languages:	M exican, C uban, and N icaraguan people all speak S panish.
the names of racial, ethnic, or cultural groups:	There were A sian, N ative A merican, and A frican dancers at the festival.
the names of ships, planes, and space vehicles:	The president flew on <u>Air Force One</u> to see the <u>USS Abraham Lincoln</u> , a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier. Note: You must also underline the name of a ship, plane, or space vehicle: the space shuttle <u>Columbia</u>
to begin the names of these special places and things:	
• street names:	P alm A venue, C ypress S treet, P ine B oulevard
• cities, states, and countries:	L os Angeles, C alifornia, U nited S tates of A merica, P aris, F rance
• continents:	A sia, E urope, S outh A merica
• landforms and bodies of water:	G reat P lains, S an F rancisco B ay, G reat S alt L ake
• buildings, monuments, and public places:	the W hite H ouse, the S tatue of L iberty, Y ellowstone N ational P ark
• historic events:	The G old R ush began in 1849. The C ivil W ar ended in 1865.

<p>titles of books, stories, poems, and magazines:</p>	<p>The story “The Friendly Fruit Bat” appeared in <u>Ranger Rick</u> magazine and in a science book called <u>Flying Mammals</u>.</p> <p>Be Careful! Do not use a capital letter at the beginning of a small word in a title, such as a, an, at, for, in, and the, unless it is the first word in the title.</p> <p>Note: When you write a title, remember . . .</p> <p>Some titles are underlined:</p> <p>Book Titles: <u>Frog and Toad</u> Magazine Titles: <u>Ranger Rick</u> Movie Titles: <u>Bambi</u> TV Shows: <u>Sesame Street</u> Newspapers: <u>The Daily News</u></p> <p>Some titles go inside quotation marks:</p> <p>Story Titles: “The Fox and the Crow” Chapter Titles: “In Which Piglet Meets a Heffalump” Poem Titles: “My Shadow” Song Titles: “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” Titles of Articles: “Ship Sinks in Bay”</p>
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Punctuation Marks

Punctuation gives information that helps you understand a sentence.

End Punctuation

Every sentence must end with one of these three punctuation marks: . ! ?

A **period** (.) shows that a sentence is:

<p>giving information:</p>	<p>I love to read short stories.</p>
<p>giving a mild command:</p>	<p>Choose a short story to read aloud.</p> <p>Note: A period is also used in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abbreviations of months and days: Jan. (January), Feb. (February), Mon. (Monday), etc. • abbreviations of measurements: ft. (foot/feet), in. (inch/inches), lb./lbs. (pound/pounds), oz. (ounce/ounces) • time: 8:00 a.m., 4:30 p.m., etc.

Punctuation Marks (continued)

A **question mark (?)** shows that a sentence is:

asking a question:	Did you choose a story to read?
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An **exclamation point (!)** shows that a sentence is:

expressing strong feelings:	Wow! That story is really long!
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Comma

A **comma (,)** can help you know how to read things. Commas are often used in sentences. Sometimes commas are used with words or phrases.

Some commas are used to keep things separate. Use a **comma** to separate:

the name of a city from the name of a state:	El Paso, Texas
the name of a city from the name of a country:	London, England
the date from the year:	October 12, 2004
the salutation (greeting) from the body of a letter:	Dear Ms. Silver,
the closing in a letter from the signature:	Yours truly,
two adjectives that tell about the same noun:	<p>Nico is a witty, smart boy.</p> <p>Hint: To see if you need a comma between two adjectives, use these two "tests":</p> <p>1 Switch the order of the adjectives. If the sentence still makes sense, you must use a comma:</p> <p>YES: Nico is a witty, smart boy. → Nico is a smart, witty boy.</p> <p>NO: Nico has dark brown hair. → Nico has brown dark hair.</p> <p>2 Put the word "and" between the two adjectives. If the sentence still makes sense, you must use a comma:</p> <p>YES: Nico is a witty, smart boy. → Nico is a witty and smart boy.</p> <p>NO: Nico has dark brown hair. → Nico has dark and brown hair.</p>

Punctuation Marks (continued)

Some commas help you know where to pause when you read a sentence. Use a **comma** to show a pause:

between three or more items in a list or series:	Nico won't eat beets, spinach, or shrimp.
after or before the name of a person that someone is talking to in a sentence:	After: Nico, I think that you need to eat more. Before: I think that you need to eat more, Nico. Both: I think, Nico, that you need to eat more.
between the words spoken by someone and the rest of the sentence:	Mrs. Flores said, "It's time to break the piñata now!" "I know," answered Maya.
after an exclamation at the beginning of a sentence:	Boy, that's a lot of candy!
after a short introductory phrase or clause that comes before the main idea:	After all that candy, nobody was hungry for cake.
before and after a word or words that interrupt the main idea of a sentence:	The cake, however, was already out on the picnic table.
before and after a word or phrase that renames or gives more information about the noun before it:	The cake, which had thick chocolate frosting, melted in the hot sun. Mrs. Lutz, our neighbor, gave Mom the recipe.
before the connecting word in a compound sentence:	The frosting was melted, but the cake was great. Note: A simple sentence always includes a <u>subject</u> and a <u>verb</u> , and it expresses a complete thought. A compound sentence joins two simple sentences together, so each of the two parts of a compound sentence has its own <u>subject</u> and <u>verb</u> . The two parts of a compound sentence are joined by a comma and a conjunction. The conjunctions and , but , for , nor , or , so , and yet are all used to join two simple sentences into one compound sentence. In a compound sentence, always place the comma before the connecting conjunction: <u>Maya ate</u> candy, but <u>she was</u> too full to eat cake. <u>Nico ate</u> candy, and <u>he also ate</u> a piece of cake. <u>Nico is</u> thin, yet <u>he eats</u> lots of sweets. <u>Maya is</u> chubby, so <u>she watches</u> what she eats.

Punctuation Marks (continued)

Semicolon

You can also use a **semicolon** (;) to join two simple sentences.

You may use a semicolon instead of a period to join two simple sentences:	The party ended at 4:00; the guests left by 4:15.
You may use a semicolon instead of a comma:	<p>The party was lots of fun; however, the cleanup was lots of work!</p> <p>Be Careful! When you use a semicolon instead of a comma, do not use a coordinating conjunction (and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet):</p> <p>With a comma: Maya is responsible, so she wrote her thank-you notes right away.</p> <p>With a semicolon: Maya is responsible; therefore, she wrote her thank-you notes right away.</p> <p>Note: Authors may choose to use a semicolon instead of a period or a comma. It depends on the author's style or personal preference, or on the effect the author is trying to achieve in a particular piece of writing.</p>

Quotation Marks

Use **quotation marks** (" "):

before and after words that are spoken by someone:	<p>"This was the best birthday party ever!" Maya said.</p> <p>Note: Punctuation that follows the speaker's words goes inside the quotation marks:</p> <p>"May I have a piñata at my birthday party?" Martin asked.</p> <p>Mr. Flores replied, "You bet!"</p> <p>Be Careful! When the words that tell who is speaking come before the quotation, put the comma outside the quotation marks. When the words that tell who is speaking come after the quotation, put the comma inside the quotation marks:</p> <p>Before: Mrs. Flores asked, "Do you want a chocolate cake, too?"</p> <p>After: "I sure do," said Martin.</p>
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around words that are being discussed:	The word “piñata” is written with a special letter.
around slang or words used in an unusual way:	We all had to “chill out” after the party.

Apostrophe

An **apostrophe** (') helps show who owns something. You add an apostrophe after the name of an owner.

When there is just one owner, add an apostrophe first and then add an S :	cat + 's → cat's The cat's dish was empty.												
When there is more than one owner, add an S first and then add an apostrophe:	<p>cats + ' → cats' All the cats' cages at the shelter were nice and big.</p> <p>Be Careful! When the name of more than one owner does not end with an S, add an apostrophe first and then add an S:</p> <p>children + 's → children's</p> <p>The children's cat was in the last cage.</p> <p>people + 's → people's</p> <p>Other people's pets were making lots of noise.</p>												
Use an apostrophe when you put two words together to make one word. This is called a contraction. In a contraction, the apostrophe takes the place of the missing letter or letters:	<table> <tr> <td>I + am = I'm</td><td>do + not = don't</td></tr> <tr> <td>you + are = you're</td><td>does + not = doesn't</td></tr> <tr> <td>he + is = he's</td><td>are + not = aren't</td></tr> <tr> <td>it + is = it's</td><td>could + not = couldn't</td></tr> <tr> <td>we + would = we'd</td><td>have + not = haven't</td></tr> <tr> <td>they + will = they'll</td><td>would + not = wouldn't</td></tr> </table>	I + am = I'm	do + not = don't	you + are = you're	does + not = doesn't	he + is = he's	are + not = aren't	it + is = it's	could + not = couldn't	we + would = we'd	have + not = haven't	they + will = they'll	would + not = wouldn't
I + am = I'm	do + not = don't												
you + are = you're	does + not = doesn't												
he + is = he's	are + not = aren't												
it + is = it's	could + not = couldn't												
we + would = we'd	have + not = haven't												
they + will = they'll	would + not = wouldn't												

Hyphen

Use a **hyphen (-)**:

between numbers in a fraction:	One-half of the candies had walnuts, and one-quarter had almonds.
to join two words that work together to make an adjective before a noun:	It's not easy to find low-fat candy and sugar-free soda.

Plurals

A noun names a person, place, or thing. A **plural noun** names more than one person, place, or thing.

Add an S to make most nouns plural:	girl → girl + s → girls river → river + s → rivers
If the noun ends in ch, s, sh, or x , add es :	lunch → lunch + es → lunches dress → dress + es → dresses brush → brush + es → brushes fox → fox + es → foxes
If the noun ends in y , change the y to i and add es :	fly → fli + es → flies story → stori + es → stories Note: If the noun ends in a vowel plus y , just add s : bay → bay + s → bays key → key + s → keys boy → boy + s → boys Be Careful! Some plural nouns do not have an s at all: child → children foot → feet man → men tooth → teeth woman → women goose → geese