

Rules for Forming Plurals

- ◆ Plurals of most nouns are formed by adding *s*.
- ◆ The plural form of nouns ending in *sh*, *ch*, *x*, *s* and *z* are made by adding *es* to the singular.
[Lunch-lunches, dish-dishes, mess-messes, fox-foxes]
- ◆ Some nouns remain unchanged when used as plurals.
[deer, sheep, salmon]
- ◆ The plurals of common nouns ending in *y* preceded by a consonant are formed by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *es*.
[fly-flies, jalopy-jalopies]
- ◆ The plurals of nouns which end in *y* preceded by a vowel are formed by adding only an *s*.
[donkey-donkeys, monkey-monkeys]
- ◆ The plurals of words ending in *o* preceded by a vowel are formed by adding *s*.
[radio-radios, rodeo-rodeos, studio-studios]
- ◆ Most nouns ending in *o* preceded by a consonant are formed by adding *es*.
[echo-echoes, hero-heroes, tomato-tomatoes]
- ◆ Musical terms ending in *o* always form plurals by adding *s*.
[alto-altos, banjo-banjoes, piano-pianos]
- ◆ The plurals of nouns that end in *f* or *fe* are formed in one of two ways: if the final *f* sound is still heard in the plural form, simply add *s*. If the final sound is a *ve* sound, change the *f* to *ve* and add *s*.
[roof-roofs, and wife-wives]
- ◆ The plurals of compound nouns are usually formed by adding *s* or *es* to the important word in the compound.
[brothers-in-law, maids-of-honor, guardians-ad-litem]
- ◆ Pronouns referring to a collective noun may be singular or plural. A pronoun is singular when the group is considered as a unit. A pronoun is plural when the group is considered in terms of its individual components.
[The MDT forgot its recommendation. (Group as a unit) The MDT forgot their briefing folders for today's meeting. (Group as individuals)]

*Adapted from Writers INC, Sebranek, Meyer, Kemper