

Nouns have two forms, the Singular and Plural. The singular form is used to refer to one person or thing. The plural form is used for referring to more than one person or thing. This type of nouns are called countable noun or uncountable nouns. Let us now look into examples of common uncountable nouns: - absence, food, wind, behaviour, beauty, death, truth, fear, nature, justice, safety, depression, peace, finance, power, intelligence, youth, capacity, health, pride, welfare, confidence, strength, mercy, duty, nature, labour, silence, time, love, energy, staff, death, joy, help, etc.

When a singular form of a countable noun is used as a subject, it takes Singular verb. When the plural form of a countable noun is used as a subject, it takes Plural verb. For instance;

A girl **is** singing in the park.

Some girls **are** singing in the park.

Singular countable nouns take a determiner before them but plural countable nouns do not take any determiner when they refer to something in general. For instance;

He bought **a book** to prepare for the **examinations**.

Most schools have **computers** for students.

The nouns which refer to general things such as quality, substance, state, action, etc. have only one form - singular. Such nouns are called uncountable nouns (the nouns which cannot be counted). These nouns are not usually used with numbers or determiners like a, an or the. For instance;

Students with **intelligence** can solve this problem.



<b>Add an “-s” to make most nouns plural</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sticker → stickers</li> <li>• ankle → ankles</li> <li>• snowflake → snowflakes</li> <li>• coat → coats</li> <li>• hamster → hamsters</li> </ul>	<b>If the noun ends in ch, s, z, sh or x, add “-es”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• branch → branches</li> <li>• glass → glasses</li> <li>• quiz → quizzes</li> <li>• brush → brushes</li> <li>• box → boxes</li> </ul>
<b>If the noun ends in f or fe, change the f or fe to “v” and add “-es”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leaf → leaves</li> <li>• scarf → scarves</li> <li>• half → halves</li> <li>• life → lives</li> <li>• knife → knives</li> </ul>	<b>If the noun ends in a consonant + y, change y to “i” and add “-es”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• blueberry → blueberries</li> <li>• buddy → buddies</li> <li>• country → countries</li> <li>• butterfly → butterflies</li> <li>• story → stories</li> </ul>
<b>If the noun ends in a vowel + y or a vowel + o, add “-s”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• highway → highways</li> <li>• toy → toys</li> <li>• donkey → donkeys</li> <li>• stereo → stereos</li> <li>• kangaroo → kangaroos</li> </ul>	<b>If the noun ends in a consonant + o, add “-es”</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• superhero → superheroes</li> <li>• potato → potatoes</li> <li>• tomato → tomatoes</li> <li>• echo → echoes</li> <li>• torpedo → torpedoes</li> </ul>

The following nouns have the same form both in the singular and the plural. For instance;

I saw some sheep grazing in the field.

The pond is full of fishes.

When units of counting such as pair, dozen, hundred, thousand, score, gross, etc. are preceded by a definite number, these should always be used in singular number. For instance;

I bought three dozen pencils for my son.

The following collective nouns appear singular in form but are always used as plurals. For instance;

Cattle were grazing in the field.

These cattle are not allowed to graze here.

The following nouns appear plural in form but are used as singulars. For instance;

Billiards was gradually replaced by bridge.

The following nouns are used only in the plurals. For instance - valuables, ashes, contents, wages, proceeds, etc.



In a compound word, when a noun does the function of an adjective, it should always be used in the singular though it may be preceded by a number. For instance;

a five year plan

a five man delegation

Some nouns have one meaning in the singular and two in the plural.

Some nouns have two meanings in the singular and one in the plural.

When we talk about one person or thing out of a group of people or things, the expression should be as –

One of + the + plural noun + singular verb

When one noun is followed by another noun to describe it, the noun which follows is said to be in apposition to noun which comes before it. A noun in apposition is in the same case as the noun that is explained by it. For instance;

Tagore, the great *reformer*, was a writer.

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