Plural nouns with 's', 'es', and 'ies'

Construction

The plural ending of a noun is usually s but it is sometimes es, ies, or irregular.

Singular noun = 1 telephone 

Plural noun = 2 telephones.  

Irregular endings

	Singular	Plural	Comments
en ending	child man woman	children men women	
o	tomato potato volcano	tomatoes potatoes volcanoes	Words of foreign origin, including Italian words, often take 's' not 'es': photos zeros pianos porticos scenarios

Others	**person** **mouse** **penny [£]** **penny [$]**	**people** **mice** **pence/pennies [£]** **pennies [$]**	**In the UK, 'pence' = an amount of money and 'pennies' = individual coins.** **The plural of a computer mouse can be 'mouses' or 'mice'.**

Pronunciation

It is important to pronounce the s or es.

/s/ sound after soft consonants [no extra syllable]	/z/ sound after hard consonants and vowel sounds [no extra syllable]	/ɪz/ sound after /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, z, /ks/ and /dʒ/ [This adds an extra syllable.]	Change y to i and add es when noun ends in a consonant and y [no extra syllable]
reports shops t-shirts trips streets books students weeks	managers bags years dogs holidays balls boys pens friends roads	offices [sɪz] wishes [ʃɪz] watches [tʃɪz] houses [zɪz] pages [dʒɪz] faxes [ksɪz]	lady ladyi + es = ladies story stories city cities baby babies fly flies

Examples

One book 

Ten books 

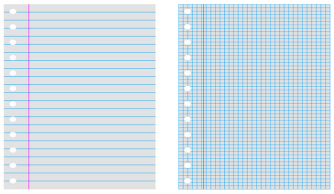
One chair 

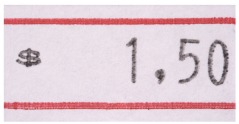
Five chairs 

One box 

Two boxes 

One page 

Two pages 

One price 

Three prices 

One puppy 

Two puppies 

One strawberry 

Nine strawberries 

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