

## Rules for Forming Plurals

- 1) Most nouns form the plural by adding **s**                      picture - pictures
- 2) Nouns ending in *s, x, z, ch, sh* form the plural by adding **es** to the singular      box - boxes
- 3) Nouns ending in *y* preceded by a consonant form the plural by changing the *y* to *i* and adding **es**                      baby-babies
- 4) The following nouns form the plural by changing the *f* or *fe* to **ves**: calf, elf, half, knife, leaf, life, loaf, self, sheaf, shelf, thief, wife, wolf.                      elf - elves
- 5) Nouns ending in *o* form the plural in several ways:
  - a) Nouns ending in an *o* preceded by a vowel form the plural by adding **s**      patio - patios
  - b) nouns ending in *o* preceded by a consonant generally form the plural by adding **es**                      tomato - tomatoes
  - c) some nouns ending in *o* preceded by a consonant form the plural by adding **s**: piano, alto, solo, soprano, burro                      piano - pianos
  - d) some nouns ending in *o* preceded by a consonant can use **s** or **es**: cargo, zero, buffalo, motto, volcano [ usually the *s* is preferred]      zero – zeros - zeroes
- 6) Some nouns form the plural by a change between the singular and plural: tooth, foot, goose, man, woman.                      foot - feet
- 7) Some nouns form the plural by adding **en**                      child - children
- 8) Some nouns retain the same form in the plural: sheep, deer, tent, corps, series, species, salmon, cod, Chinese.
- 9) When a noun is preceded by a title, either the name or the titles maybe be made plural. [note: Mrs. Cannot be made plural.]                      Miss Ray - Misses Ray - Miss Rays
- 10) Some nouns form foreign languages keep their foreign plurals:
 

alumna	alumnae	alumnus	alumni	datum	data
radius	radii	basis	bases	crisis	crises
oasis	oases	bacterium	bacteria		
- 11) Some nouns form foreign languages have a foreign and an English plural. Either is correct, but the English form is preferred. [USE ENGLISH!!]
 

Index - indexes – indices	formula – formulas - formulae
tableau - tableaus – tableaux	vertex – vertexes – vertices
- 12) Some nouns are only used in the plural: slacks, pliers, clothes, scissors, trousers, tweezers.
- 13) Some nouns are plural in form but singular in meaning and use: news, measles, aeronautics, physics, mathematics, civics.
- 14) Hyphenated and open compound words usually form the plural by adding **s** to the most important word. maid of honor / maids of honor      son-in-law / sons-in-law
- 15) Compound nouns ending in *ful* form the plural by adding **s** to the last syllable. cupful - cupfuls
- 16) Numbers adding **s**:    8 - 8s    and Letters add **s** or '**s**': T - Ts/**T's** >**is the preferred form!**