

# singular and plural nouns *cat, cats; box, boxes*

Countable nouns have different forms for **singular** and **plural**.

*one car four cars one day ten days one baby four babies one child six children*

## HOW TO MAKE PLURALS

- **most nouns: +s**    *book → books    home → homes    car → cars*
- **-s, -sh, -ch, -x: +es**    *bus → buses    wish → wishes    church → churches    fox → foxes*

### Write the plurals.

apple ✓	boss ✓	box	brush	cat	chair	church	class	dress	garden	gas
glass	hotel	plane	ship	table	time	tree	watch	wish		

+S:    *apples* .....  
 +ES:    *bosses* .....  
 .....  
 .....

## NOUNS ENDING IN -Y

- **-ay, -ey, -oy, -uy: +s**    *day → days    monkey → monkeys    toy → toys*
- **-by, -dy, -fy, -gy, etc: -y → -ies**    *baby → babies    lady → ladies    lorry → lorries*

### Write the plurals.

boy ✓	city ✓	copy	country	family	guy	holiday	key	party	way
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+S:    *boys* .....  
 -Y → -IES:    *cities* .....  
 .....

## COMMON IRREGULAR PLURALS

<i>mouse → mice</i>	<i>child → children</i>	<i>half → halves</i>	<i>shelf → shelves</i>
<i>foot → feet</i>	<i>penny → pence</i>	<i>knife → knives</i>	<i>thief → thieves</i>
<i>tooth → teeth</i>	<i>person → people</i>	<i>leaf → leaves</i>	<i>wife → wives</i>
<i>man → men</i>		<i>life → lives</i>	
<i>woman → women</i>	<i>potato → potatoes</i>	<i>loaf → loaves</i>	<i>sheep → sheep</i>
	<i>tomato → tomatoes</i>	<i>self → selves</i>	<i>fish → fish</i>

Simple present verbs have different forms after **singular** and **plural** nouns (see page 16).

*This bus runs at weekends.    Most of the buses run at weekends.*  
*My brother has a small flat.    Both my brothers have good jobs.*

### Put in plural nouns or simple present verbs.

- ▶ Their homes *are* ..... in Scotland. (*be*)
- 1 Our ..... play a lot of football. (*child*)
- 2 Those ..... don't look English. (*student*)
- 3 Some people ..... to talk to you. (*want*)
- 4 Big ..... are always dirty. (*city*)
- 5 Their ..... are travelling with them. (*wife*)
- 6 These knives .....n't cut very well. (*do*)
- 7 My ..... are giving me trouble. (*tooth*)
- 8 Those ..... cost too much. (*watch*)
- 9 Most ..... cry at night. (*baby*)
- 10 The ..... are all wet. (*match*)
- 11 Who are those .....? (*guy*)
- 12 My parents ..... at home. (*work*)
- 13 How many ..... live here? (*person*)

## singular/plural *team, family, jeans, scissors*

Words for groups of people can have singular or plural verbs in British English. We often use plural verbs when we talk about personal actions (for example *play, want, think*).

*The team is/are playing badly. My family want/wants me to study. The government think/thinks taxes are too low.*

Note the difference between *England* (the country) and *England* (the football team).

*England has got a new prime minister. England have got a new manager.*

**Police** is always plural.

*The police are looking for a tall 30-year-old woman. (NOT ~~The police is looking~~ ...)*

### 1 Group nouns (✓) or not (x)?

army ✓, audience ✓, beach x, class ....., club ....., Communist Party ....., company ....., crowd ....., idea ....., lunch ....., question ....., room ....., school ....., train .....

### 2 Put the beginnings and ends together, and put in plural verbs from the box.

are have haven't need ✓ play say want

0 The club	A ..... her to go to university. ....
1 The company	B only ..... classical music. ....
2 Her family	C ..... scored a goal this year. ....
3 The orchestra	D ..... that they're losing money. ....
4 This team	E <i>need</i> ..... a bigger room for their meetings. ...
5 England	F ..... asking for information about the accident. ....
6 The police	G ..... just lost against Germany. ....

Some nouns are **always plural**. Some common examples:

*trousers jeans tights shorts pants pyjamas glasses scissors*

*Those trousers are too short. (NOT ~~That trouser~~ ...) Where are my glasses?*



### 3 Complete the sentences. Use the words in the box.

black trousers blue jeans ✓ dark glasses scissors shorts silk pyjamas tights

- ▶ Every time I see her she's wearing *blue jeans* .....
- 1 I can't see very well with these .....
- 2 It's hot today. I'm going to put on .....
- 3 These ..... don't cut very well.
- 4 You'd better put on your best ..... for the interview.
- 5 She always sleeps in .....
- 6 I've got a hole in my ..... again.

We can also use the expression **a pair of** with these nouns.

*There is a pair of scissors on your chair. (NOT ... ~~a scissors~~ ...)*

*three pairs of jeans (NOT ~~three jeans~~) two pairs of pyjamas (NOT ~~two pyjamas~~)*