

# 7-1 REGULAR AND IRREGULAR PLURAL NOUNS

(a) <i>song-songs</i>			The plural of most nouns is formed by adding final <i>-s</i> .*
(b) <i>box-boxes</i>			Final <i>-es</i> is added to nouns that end in <i>-sh</i> , <i>-ch</i> , <i>-s</i> , <i>-z</i> , and <i>-x</i> .*
(c) <i>baby-babies</i>			The plural of words that end in a consonant + <i>-y</i> is spelled <i>-ies</i> .*
(d) <i>man-men</i> <i>woman-women</i> <i>child-children</i>	<i>ox-oxen</i> <i>foot-feet</i> <i>goose-geese</i>	<i>tooth-teeth</i> <i>mouse-mice</i> <i>louse-lice</i>	The nouns in (d) have irregular plural forms that do not end in <i>-s</i> .
(e) <i>echo-echoes</i> <i>hero-heroes</i>	<i>potato-potatoes</i> <i>tomato-tomatoes</i>		Some nouns that end in <i>-o</i> add <i>-es</i> to form the plural.
(f) <i>auto-autos</i> <i>ghetto-ghettos</i> <i>kangaroo-kangaroos</i> <i>kilo-kilos</i> <i>memo-memos</i>	<i>photo-photos</i> <i>piano-pianos</i> <i>radio-radios</i> <i>solo-solos</i> <i>soprano-sopranos</i>	<i>studio-studios</i> <i>tattoo-tattoos</i> <i>video-videos</i> <i>zoo-zoos</i>	Some nouns that end in <i>-o</i> add only <i>-s</i> to form the plural.
(g) <i>memento-mementoes/mementos</i> <i>mosquito-mosquitoes/mosquitos</i> <i>tornado-tornadoes/tornados</i>	<i>volcano-volcanoes/volcanos</i> <i>zero-zeroes/zeros</i>		Some nouns that end in <i>-o</i> add either <i>-es</i> or <i>-s</i> to form the plural (with <i>-es</i> being the more usual plural form).
(h) <i>calf-calves</i> <i>half-halves</i> <i>knife-knives</i> <i>leaf-leaves</i>	<i>life-lives</i> <i>loaf-loaves</i> <i>self-selves</i> <i>shelf-shelves</i>	<i>thief-thieves</i> <i>wolf-wolves</i> <i>scarf-scarves/scarfs</i>	Some nouns that end in <i>-f</i> or <i>-fe</i> are changed to <i>-ves</i> to form the plural.
(i) <i>belief-beliefs</i> <i>chief-chiefs</i>	<i>cliff-cliffs</i> <i>roof-roofs</i>		Some nouns that end in <i>-f</i> simply add <i>-s</i> to form the plural.
(j) <i>one deer-two deer</i> <i>one fish-two fish**</i> <i>one means-two means</i> <i>one offspring-two offspring</i>	<i>one series-two series</i> <i>one sheep-two sheep</i> <i>one shrimp-two shrimp***</i> <i>one species-two species</i>		Some nouns have the same singular and plural form: e.g., <i>One deer is . . . . Two deer are . . . .</i>
(k) <i>criterion-criteria</i> <i>phenomenon-phenomena</i>	(o) <i>analysis-analyses</i> <i>basis-bases</i> <i>crisis-crises</i> <i>hypothesis-hypotheses</i> <i>oasis-oases</i> <i>parenthesis-parentheses</i> <i>thesis-theses</i>		Some nouns that English has borrowed from other languages have foreign plurals.
(l) <i>cactus-cacti/cactuses</i> <i>fungus-fungi</i> <i>nucleus-nuclei</i> <i>stimulus-stimuli</i> <i>syllabus-syllabi/syllabuses</i>	(p) <i>bacterium-bacteria</i> <i>curriculum-curricula</i> <i>datum-data</i> <i>medium-media</i> <i>memorandum-memoranda</i>		
(m) <i>formula-formulae/formulas</i> <i>vertebra-vertebrae</i>			
(n) <i>appendix-appendices/appendixes</i> <i>index-indices/indexes</i>			

WAIFS  
 CHEFS  
 PUFFS  
 HUFFS  
 GOOFS  
 CUFFS  
 BRIEFS  
 STIFFS  
 WHIFFS  
 GRIEFS  
 STRAFES  
 CLIFFS  
 TROUT  
 HALIBUT  
 SALMON  
 etc.

\*For information about the pronunciation and spelling of words ending in *-s/-es*, see Chart 6-1, p. 84.

\*\**Fishes* is also possible, but rarely used.

\*\*\*Especially in British English, but also occasionally in American English, the plural of *shrimp* can be *shrimps*.