**The Plural of Nouns**

**Regular Plural Forms**

We form the plural of a noun with the**singular + s**

parrot – parrot**s**/ apple – apple**s** / girl – girl**s**

Nouns ending with **y** if a consonant is written before. ----> **ies**

lolly – loll**ies** / story – stor**ies** / strawberry – strawberr**ies**

**but:** boy – boys / toy - toys / bay - bays

Nouns ending with **ch, x, s, sh, o** ---->**es**

class – class**es**/ brush – brush**es** / box – box**es**

Some nouns ending with **f, fe, lf** ----> **ves**

knife – kni**ves** / wolf – wol**ves** / life – li**ves**

**but**: chiefs, safes, cliffs, handkerchiefs

**Irregular Plural Forms**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| man - **men** | woman – **women** |
| goose - **geese** | ox – **oxen** |
| foot - **feet** | mouse – **mice** |
| person - **people** | tooth – **teeth** |
| louse - **lice** | child – **children** |

**Special Plural Nouns**

You can use **singular or plural** with nouns like family, class, police, team, army, band, choir, class, club, crew, company, firm, gang, government, orchestra, party, staff, etc.

Some nouns are identical to the singular form:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| bison - **bison** | deer – **deer** |
| fish - **fish** | moose – **moose** |
| series – **series** | species – **species** |
| sheep - **sheep** | offspring – **offspring** |

**Special Plural Nouns**

You can use **singular or plural** with nouns like family, class, police, team, army, band, choir, class, club, crew, company, firm, gang, government, orchestra, party, staff, etc.

In British English the plural is used more often than in American English.

If the group acts in unison (as a group), use a singular verb:

My family **lives** in Miami. - All the members living under one roof.

The team **was** successful. - You see the team as a group.

If the group acts individually, use a plural verb:

My family **live** in towns all over Florida. - Each individual is living a separate life in a different town.

The team **were** successful. - You see the single members of the team.