

Concrete noun

A word that names something you can see or touch

Abstract noun

A word that names something you cannot see or touch

Nouns can be abstract or concrete. A **concrete noun** is a word that names something you can see or touch. An **abstract noun** is a word that names something you cannot see or touch. You can think about it or talk about it.

EXAMPLE**Concrete Nouns**

money
clock
college

Abstract Nouns

expense
minute
education

Activity A Read each pair of nouns. On your paper, write the abstract noun in each pair.

- | | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|----------|
| 1) day | sun | 4) justice | judge |
| 2) winter | ice | 5) bank | security |
| 3) rain | weather | | |

Abstract nouns are the most difficult nouns to recognize. Two abstract nouns that you will often see in sentences are *kind* and *type*.

Kind is a noun that means a certain group or a certain manner. *Type* is a noun that means a group that has characteristics or features in common.

EXAMPLE

What **kind** of ice cream do you like?
I like chocolate. (Chocolate is a "kind" of ice cream.)

What **type** of shoes do you prefer?
I like comfortable shoes. (A characteristic of a certain group of shoes is that they are comfortable.)

I like sandals. (Sandals are a certain type of shoe with open toes and heels.)

Words about time and numbers are usually abstract. We cannot see or touch time or numbers, even though we talk about them as though they were real.

Activity B Write these sentences on your paper and underline the nouns.

- 1) What type of dessert do you like? Sweet or crunchy?
- 2) What kind of shoes do you prefer?
- 3) A comedy is my favorite type of movie.
- 4) What kind of book do you like?
- 5) There are many kinds of apples.

Activity C Find the nouns in these sentences. Write them on your paper. Identify each one as *abstract* or *concrete*.

- 1) Nathan wants to buy a car.
- 2) He has been thinking about the type he would like.
- 3) Nathan saw an ad in the newspaper.
- 4) He liked the car, but the price was not right.
- 5) Maybe next time his luck will be better.



Nathan liked the car,
but not the price.

On your paper, write a sentence using each abstract noun. Underline the nouns you use.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1) year | 6) beauty |
| 2) happiness | 7) reading |
| 3) bravery | 8) friendship |
| 4) springtime | 9) love |
| 5) energy | 10) conversation |

Find the nouns in these sentences. Write them on your paper. Identify each one as *abstract* or *concrete*.

- 11) The party was a total surprise for Michelle.
- 12) What was Michelle's reaction when she saw the package?
- 13) She kept looking at her new watch and telling us the time.
- 14) The cheers of the crowd filled the stadium.
- 15) The player showed his appreciation by tipping his cap.

On a sheet of paper, write a few sentences about your best friend. Describe his or her characteristics. When you are finished, go back and underline the nouns. Identify each one as *abstract* or *concrete*.

Singular noun

The name of one person, place, thing, or idea

A **singular noun** is the name of one person, place, thing, or idea.

A **plural noun** is the name of more than one person, place, thing, or idea.

Most plural nouns end in -s.

Plural noun

The name of more than one person, place, thing, or idea

EXAMPLE

Singular Nouns	Plural Nouns
flower	flowers
tree	trees
mouth	mouths

Activity A Write the plural forms of these nouns on your paper.

- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 1) apple | 4) desk |
| 2) boy | 5) computer |
| 3) toe | |

Activity B Find the plural nouns in this paragraph. Write them on your paper.

Wilson High School has computers for the students to use. They are in the media center. Nathan and his friends go there after school. They use the equipment to write their papers. Nathan also likes to play computer games in his free time.

Add *-es* to nouns that end in *s*, *z*, *x*, *ch*, or *sh* to form the plural.

EXAMPLE

Singular Nouns	Plural Nouns
pass	passes
quiz	quizzes
wish	wishes

When a plural noun ends in *-es*, the word has an extra syllable. You can hear the difference if you say the singular and plural forms out loud.

Activity C Write the plural form of each of these singular nouns on your paper. Add either *-s* or *-es*. Say the plural out loud. You will hear the extra syllable when the plural noun ends in *-es*.

- 1) tax
- 2) path
- 3) peach
- 4) printer
- 5) dish

Nouns That End with *y*

Some nouns that end with *y* become plural by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *-es*.

Some nouns that end with *y* become plural by adding *-s*.

Study the two examples. What is the difference between the two groups of words? Say the plural forms in both groups out loud.

EXAMPLE	Change <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> / Add <i>-es</i>		Add <i>-s</i>	
city	cities	key	keys	
lady	ladies	alley	alleys	
spy	spies	boy	boys	

Here are the rules for making the plural forms of nouns that end with *y*.

Rule 1 The letter before the *y* in *key*, *alley*, and *boy* is a vowel. These nouns become plural by adding *-s*.

Rule 2 The letter before the *y* in *city*, *lady*, and *spy* is a consonant. These nouns become plural by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *-es*.

Writing Tip

Don't forget to check the spelling of plurals in a dictionary. If no plural form is shown, that means the plural is made by adding *-s*. All other plural forms will be shown.

Activity D Using the rules you have learned, write the singular and plural forms of these nouns on your paper.

Example	Singular Noun	Plural Noun
	monkey	monkeys

1) baby

4) turkey

2) toy

5) country

3) penny

Nouns That End with *o*

If a noun has a vowel before its final *o*, you add *-s* to make the noun plural.

EXAMPLE	Singular Nouns	Plural Nouns
	radio	radios
	studio	studios
	trio	trios

If a noun has a consonant before its final *o*, you usually add *-es* to make the plural.

EXAMPLE	Singular Nouns	Plural Nouns
	potato	potatoes
	echo	echoes

To make the plural forms of many musical words that end with *o*, you add *-s*.

EXAMPLE	Singular Nouns	Plural Nouns
	piano	pianos
	solo	solos

Activity E Complete each sentence using the plural form of the noun shown in parentheses. Write the plural noun on your paper.

- 1) Emily bought ____ at the store. (tomato)
- 2) Angela went to a store that sold _____. (radio)
- 3) Nathan's mother serves ____ every night at dinner. (potato)
- 4) At the beginning of the song, the ____ sang alone. (soprano)
- 5) Janet Evans is one of Angela's _____. (hero)

Nouns That End with *f* or *fe*

Nouns that end with *f* or *fe* often sound different in their plural forms. Say these words out loud. Listen to how they sound.

cliff **cliffs** **roof** **roofs**

You form the plural of some nouns that end with *f* or *fe* by adding *-s*. You form the plural of others by changing the *f* or *fe* to *v* and adding *-s* or *-es*.

EXAMPLE

Singular Nouns	Plural Nouns
safe	safes
life	lives
belief	beliefs
leaf	leaves

Activity F Say each word in the list out loud. Then write its plural form on your paper.

- 1) calf
- 2) thief
- 3) chef
- 4) knife
- 5) chief

Irregular Plurals

Sometimes the singular and plural forms of a noun are the same.

EXAMPLE

Singular Nouns

one deer

one sheep

a trout

Plural Nouns

a herd of deer

many sheep

a school of trout

Activity G Find the spelling mistakes in this paragraph. Write the correct spellings of the words on your paper.

Armando and his family drove out to the country. They went past a field of deers. They saw several farms with flocks of sheeps and herds of cows. They stopped at a lake in a state park to fish. Armando caught three trouts. Everyone enjoyed the day.

Some plural nouns are spelled very differently from their singular forms. You change letters in the words or add other letters to make the words plural.

EXAMPLE

Singular Nouns

child

foot

ox

mouse

man

Plural Nouns

children

feet

oxen

mice

men

Activity H On your paper, write the plural form of each of these nouns in a sentence.

1) child

2) woman

3) foot

4) tooth

5) mouse

Write the plural forms of these nouns on your paper.

- | | |
|-----------|---------|
| 1) goose | 4) lady |
| 2) mouth | 5) deer |
| 3) monkey | 6) ox |

Each of these sentences has one mistake. Find the mistake. Then write the sentence correctly on your paper.

- 7) Evans won four individual gold medales in the Olympics.
- 8) Mrs. Langston says we will have to make several spechs next semester.
- 9) One of her beliefes is that speaking in front of an audience is good for students.
- 10) Emily sings with the altoes in the choir.

Spelling Builder

Plural Nouns

If you write about more than one thing, you need to use the plural form of the word. Most plurals are spelled by adding *-s* or *-es* to the words. The following hints can help you spell the plural forms of most nouns.

- Add *-s* to most nouns: *rule—rules*.
- For nouns that end with *s*, *z*, *x*, *sh*, and *ch*, add *-es*: *fox—foxes*.
- For nouns that end with a consonant before a *y*, change the *y* to *i* and add *-es*: *country—countries*.
- For some nouns that end with *f* or *fe*, change the *f* or *fe* to *v* and add *-es*: *leaf—leaves*.

Write the plural forms of these nouns.

penny wish house life

