

Mastering Plural Nouns

Directions for the teacher:

STEP 1 – Do Task A as a class or in pairs. Answers:

1. **scissors** e
2. **pants** b
3. **shorts** h
4. **sunglasses** a
5. **binoculars** c
6. **tweezers** d
7. **pliers** f
8. **tongs** g

What do all these nouns have in common? – They're all plural nouns.

How can we count them? - We can count pairs: one pair of scissors, two pairs...

STEP 2 – Students may work independently. Correct their work as a class. Offer explanations as necessary. Answers:

1. The **sheeps** were grazing in the grassy field.
2. Please buy two **dozens** eggs because I'm doing a lot of baking this weekend.
3. The city has a population of over 10 **millions** people.
4. **Are Is** twenty dollars enough or should I stop at the ATM?
5. In case of a fire, they say to use the **stairs**, not the elevator.
6. **This is These are** my favorite jeans.
7. Anytime you move to a new home, it takes a while to become familiar with your surroundings.
8. Dominoes **aren't isn't** as popular as other games today.
9. The news **aren't isn't** always fair because each channel, station, or newspaper has an agenda.
10. My grandparents sent their congratulations along with a gift card.
11. A number of students in our school **has have** entered the competition.
12. The number of students applying to college **have has** stayed the same.

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STEP 3 – Students will work in pairs or small groups to complete Task C. Answers:

baby – babies Change y to i and add -es.	knife – knives Change f to v and add -es.	chef – chefs Many nouns ending in f simply add an -es.
technologies daisies	wives loaves shelves	cliffs beliefs roofs
potato – potatoes Many nouns ending in o add an -es.	studio – studios Some nouns that end in o (vowel + o) add only an -s.	watch – watches Many words ending in hissing or buzzing consonant sounds add an -es.
heroes flamingoes	videos flamingos	batches crosses
crisis – crises Greek nouns with -is change to -es.	deer – deer Some nouns don't change forms.	foot – feet Some nouns have a vowel change.
diagnoses analyses hypotheses	moose series buffalo sheep	geese teeth
phenomenon – phenomena Greek nouns with -on change to -a.	person – people Some nouns change forms.	cactus – cacti Latin nouns with -us change to -i. (Variations are possible: cactuses)
criteria	children	fungi (also: funguses) syllabi (also: syllabuses)

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A. Match the objects to their uses.

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| 1. scissors | ___ | a. Put on a pair to protect your eyes from the sun. |
| 2. pants | ___ | b. Wear a pair to work. They're appropriate for the office. |
| 3. shorts | ___ | c. Use these to watch birds or see other things in the distance. |
| 4. sunglasses | ___ | d. Try using these to remove a splinter from your finger. |
| 5. binoculars | ___ | e. Use a pair to cut paper, string, hair, etc. |
| 6. tweezers | ___ | f. Find a pair of these in the toolbox and use them for electrical work. |
| 7. pliers | ___ | g. Use these for to make stir-fry or serve a salad. |
| 8. tongs | ___ | h. Wear these in hot summer weather to stay cool. |

What do all these nouns have in common? How can we count them?

B. Correct the mistakes.

1. The sheeps were grazing in the grassy field.
2. Please buy two dozens eggs because I'm doing a lot of baking this weekend.
3. The city has a population of over 10 millions people.
4. Are twenty dollars enough or should I stop at the ATM?
5. In case of a fire, they say to use the stair, not the elevator.
6. This is my favorite jeans.
7. Anytime you move to a new home, it takes a while to become familiar with your surrounding.
8. Dominoes aren't as popular as other games today.
9. The news aren't always fair because each channel, station, or newspaper has an agenda.
10. My grandparents sent their congratulation along with a gift card.
11. A number of students in our school has entered the competition.
12. The number of students applying to college have stayed the same.

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C. Sort the plural nouns. Which ones follow the same pattern?

geese wives heroes moose
fungi diagnoses criteria videos
buffalo series shelves technologies
batches teeth syllabi loaves
daisies cliffs hypotheses sheep
roofs flamingo flamingoes analyses
beliefs crosses children

baby - babies	knife - knives	chef - chefs
potato - potatoes	studio - studios	watch - watches
crisis - crises	deer - deer	foot - feet
phenomenon - phenomena	person - people	cactus - cacti

Can you suggest additional examples of any pattern?