

Irregular Plural Nouns

Irregular plural nouns are those nouns that do not become plural by adding “-s,” “-es,” or “-ies” like most nouns do. Thus, to master irregular plural nouns, it is necessary to know some simple rules:

1. Nouns ending in “-f” and “-fe”

The nouns that end with the letter “-f” or “-fe” can be changed to their irregular plural forms by replacing the ending with “-ves.” For example:

Singular	Plural
<i>Knife</i>	<i>Knives</i>
<i>Half</i>	<i>Halves</i>
<i>Life</i>	<i>Lives</i>
<i>Leaf</i>	<i>Leaves</i>

2. Nouns ending in “-o”

The nouns that end with the letter “-o” can be changed to their irregular plural forms by adding “-es.” For example,

Singular	Plural
<i>Potato</i>	<i>Potatoes</i>
<i>Tomato</i>	<i>Tomatoes</i>
<i>Mosquito</i>	<i>Mosquitoes</i>
<i>Mango</i>	<i>Mangoes</i>

3. Nouns that change vowels

There are some nouns that can be changed to their irregular plural forms by replacing the vowels. For example:

Singular	Plural
<i>Tooth</i>	<i>Teeth</i>
<i>Foot</i>	<i>Feet</i>
<i>Man</i>	<i>Men</i>
<i>Goose</i>	<i>Geese</i>

4. Complete change of irregular nouns

There are some nouns that change completely when changed to their plural forms. For example:

Singular	Plural
<i>Person</i>	<i>People</i>
<i>Mouse</i>	<i>Mice</i>
<i>Child</i>	<i>Children</i>
<i>Louse</i>	<i>Lice</i>

5. Irregular Nouns That Do Not Change At All

There are some nouns that remain the same in both the singular and plural forms. Most of these nouns are animal names. For example:

Singular	Plural
<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Sheep</i>
<i>Swine</i>	<i>Swine</i>
<i>Rice</i>	<i>Rice</i>
<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Wheat</i>

Fill in each blank with the irregular plural form of the noun given within brackets.

1. The police caught the ----- (thief).
2. Please check the ----- (bookshelf).
3. We saw a pack of ----- (wolf) in the jungle.
4. My cousin has ----- (child).
5. Some ----- (man) were roaming on the road.
6. The cow gave birth to three ----- (calf).
7. Wash you dirty ----- (foot) before you step into the house.
8. The trees shed their ----- (leaf) during the winter.

9. Keep all the ----- (knife) on the table.
10. Many ----- (person) were complaining about the arrangements.
11. A few ----- (man) should stand in the left queue.
12. Many ----- (goose) were running near the pond.
13. I go to the dentist to check my ----- (tooth)
14. The doctor saved their ----- (life).
15. Which is the ----- (woman's) room?

