

Noun Plurals

7th grade –
High School

Noun Plurals

Most nouns change their form to indicate number by adding "-s" or "-es", as illustrated in the following pairs of sentences:

When Matthew was small he rarely told the **truth** if he thought he was going to be punished.
Many people do not believe that **truths** are self-evident.
As they walked through the silent house, they were startled by an unexpected **echo**.
I like to shout into the quarry and listen to the **echoes** that returned.
He tripped over a **box** left carelessly in the hallway.
Since we are moving, we will need many **boxes**.

There are other nouns, which form the plural by changing the last letter before adding "s". Some words ending in "f" form the plural by deleting "f" and adding "ves," and words ending in "y" form the plural by deleting the "y" and adding "ies," as in the following pairs of sentences:

The harbour at Marble Mountain has one **wharf**.
There are several **wharves** in Halifax Harbour.
Warsaw is their favorite **city** because it reminds them of their courtship.
The vacation my grandparents won includes trips to twelve European **cities**.
The children circled around the headmaster and shouted, "Are you a **mouse** or a man?"
The audience was shocked when all five men admitted that they were afraid of **mice**.

Other nouns form the plural irregularly. If English is your first language, you probably know most of these already: when in doubt, consult a good dictionary.

Possessive Nouns

In the possessive case, a noun or pronoun changes its form to show that it owns or is closely related to something else. Usually, nouns become possessive by adding a combination of an apostrophe and the letter "s."

You can form the possessive case of a singular noun that does not end in "s" by adding an apostrophe and "s," as in the following sentences:

The red suitcase is **Cassandra's**.
The only luggage that was lost was the **prime minister's**.
The exhausted recruits were woken before dawn by the **drill sergeant's** screams.
The **miner's** face was covered in coal dust.

You can form the possessive case of a singular noun that ends in "s" by adding an apostrophe alone or by adding an apostrophe and "s," as in the following examples:

The **bus's** seats are very uncomfortable.
The **bus'** seats are very uncomfortable.
The film crew accidentally crushed the **platypus's** eggs.
The film crew accidentally crushed the **platypus'** eggs.
Felicia Hemans's poetry was once more popular than Lord Byron's.
Felicia Hemans' poetry was once more popular than Lord Byron's.

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Website used:

<http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/writcent/hypergrammar/nouns.html>

You can form the possessive case of a plural noun that does not end in "s" by adding an apostrophe and a "s," as in the following examples:

The **children's** mittens were scattered on the floor of the porch.
The **sheep's** pen was mucked out every day.
Since we have a complex appeal process, a **jury's** verdict is not always final.
The **men's** hockey team will be play as soon as the **women's** team is finished.
The hunter followed the **moose's** trail all morning but lost it in the afternoon.

You can form the possessive case of a plural noun that *does* end in "s" by adding an apostrophe:

The concert was interrupted by the **dogs'** barking, the **ducks'** quacking, and the **babies'** squalling.
The **janitors'** room is downstairs and to the left.
My uncle spent many hours trying to locate the **squirrels'** nest.
The archivist quickly finished repairing the **diaries'** bindings.
Religion is usually the subject of the **roommates'** many late night debates.

What is a sentence?

Every complete **sentence** contains two parts: a **subject** and a **predicate**. The subject is what (or whom) the sentence is about, while the predicate tells something about the subject.

Simple Subject and Simple Predicate

Every subject is built around one **noun** or **pronoun** (or more) that, when stripped of all the words that modify it, is known as the **simple subject**. Consider the following example:

A **piece** of pepperoni pizza would satisfy his hunger.

The subject is built around the noun "piece," with the other words of the subject -- "a" and "of pepperoni pizza" -- modifying the noun. "Piece" is the simple subject.

Likewise, a predicate has at its center a **simple predicate**, which is always the verb or verbs that link up with the subject. In the example we just considered, the simple predicate is "would satisfy" -- in other words, the verb of the sentence.

A sentence may have a **compound subject** -- a simple subject consisting of more than one noun or pronoun -- as in these examples:

Team **pennants**, rock **posters** and family **photographs** covered the boy's bedroom walls.
Her **uncle** and **she** walked slowly through the Inuit art gallery and admired the powerful sculptures exhibited there.

The second sentence above features a **compound predicate**, a predicate that includes more than one verb pertaining to the same subject (in this case, "walked" and "admired").

Homework: Write twenty complete sentences using a simple subject and a simple predicate. Answer the question of “What or Whom” by underlining the simple subject in the sentence.

This lesson does not need to be submitted: Points/reward value: 0