

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Plural Nouns** -- Plurals of nouns have many exceptions. Your only sure guide is the dictionary. Here are a few of the rules which fit most of the time.

- A. Nouns regularly form their plurals by adding an s to the singular: **Ex. trees**
- B. Nouns ending in sh, ch, s, x, or z add es to form the plurals: **Ex. bunches, boxes, dashes**
- C. Some nouns ending in o add es; some add s; and a few add either s or es: **Ex. heroes, portfolios, buffaloes** (Always go with the first spelling as given in the dictionary.)
- D. Nouns ending in o preceded by a vowel are formed by adding s. The reason for this rule is that you **do not want to have 3 vowels in a row** -- studi o e s. The correct spelling is **studios**.
- E. Common nouns ending in y preceded by a consonant, change y to i and add es: **Ex. pies**. This rule makes sense because **it is alright to have two vowels in a row** -- sky changes to ski e s.
- F. A noun ending in y preceded by a vowel forms the plural by adding s: **Ex. donkeys** -- It would not be correct to have 3 vowels in a row -- donke i e s.
- G. Proper nouns ending in y form their plurals by adding s: **Ex. the two Harrys, the Kellys**
- H. Some nouns ending in f or fe change the f or fe to v and add es: **Ex. calves, lives** For others, add only s: **Ex. roofs, safes** (Most of these words can be decided by the way the words sound.)
- I. Some nouns form the plural by changing the spelling: **Ex. oxen, teeth, mice, feet**
- J. A few nouns have the same form for singular and plural: **Ex. deer, sheep**
- K. When a compound noun is made up of a noun plus a modifier, the plural (s or es, whichever is correct) is added to the noun (main word): **Ex. brothers-in-law, commanders-in-chief**
- L. When a compound noun is written without a hyphen, the plural is formed at the end of the word. **Ex. cupfuls, spoonfuls, birdhouses, handfuls**
- M. A few nouns are plural in form but singular in meaning: **Ex. civics, news** A few nouns are used in the plural only: **Ex. tongs, scissors, jeans, shorts**
- N. Most musical terms ending in o add s to form the plurals: **Ex. bassos, solos, radios, piccolos, concertos, sopranos, pianos**
- O. The following vegetables take es to become plural. **Ex. tomatoes, potatoes**
- P. Other words ending in o become plural adding es. **Ex. vetoes, mottoes, mosquitoes, potatoes**

## PLURAL NOUNS PRACTICE

On the line to the left of each word, write the letter of the rule (see Rules A-R as listed above) which seems to apply. Then utilizing the rule, write the plural to the right of each word.

<u>Rule</u>	<u>Plural Spelling</u>	<u>Rule</u>	<u>Plural Spelling</u>
<u>E</u> 1. cherry	<u>cherries</u>	<u>H</u> 2. elf	<u>elves</u>
_____ 3. Mary	_____	_____ 4. turkey	_____
_____ 5. goose	_____	_____ 6. piano	_____
_____ 7. bench	_____	_____ 8. handful	_____
_____ 9. scissors	_____	_____ 10. chief	_____
_____ 11. lady	_____	_____ 12. half	_____
_____ 13. radio	_____	_____ 14. sister-in-law	_____
_____ 15. jeans	_____	_____ 16. tomato	_____
_____ 17. tooth	_____	_____ 18. calf	_____

**Possessive Nouns** -- There are three simple rules to learn. One of these rules has a variation, but the variation tends to confuse people. Therefore, we will ignore the variation and learn the three simple rules because they will always be correct in every situation and will not lead to confusion:

**Rule 1:** The **singular possessive** of a noun is ALWAYS formed by **adding an \_\_\_\_\_ and an \_\_\_\_\_ to the singular form.**

Example: girl's dress, James's car, Moses's shoe

**Rule 2:** To form the **plural possessive**, write down the plural noun form. Look at it. **If it ends in an \_\_\_\_\_, just add an \_\_\_\_\_.**

Example: ten donkeys' tails and two cakes' decorations

**Rule 3:** To form the **plural possessive if the word does not end in an \_\_\_\_\_**, simply **add an \_\_\_\_\_ and an \_\_\_\_\_**. Example: children's toys, men's cologne, sheep's wool

1. the book of the teacher → the \_\_\_\_\_ book
2. the garden of my grandparents → my \_\_\_\_\_ garden
3. the houses of my friends → my \_\_\_\_\_ houses
4. the stripes of the zebra → the \_\_\_\_\_ stripes
5. the car of my sister → my \_\_\_\_\_ car
6. the bottles of the babies → the \_\_\_\_\_ bottles
7. the medicine of my mother → my \_\_\_\_\_ medicine
8. the socks of my brother → my \_\_\_\_\_ socks
9. the roof of the house → the \_\_\_\_\_ roof
10. the signature of the lawyers → the \_\_\_\_\_ signature

### **PLURAL AND POSSESSIVE NOUNS PRACTICE**

<b>SINGULAR NOUN</b> ↓	<b>make it POSSESSIVE</b> ↓	<b>make it PLURAL</b> ↓	<b>make the PLURAL POSSESSIVE</b> ↓
1. wife	_____	_____	_____
2. donkey	_____	_____	_____
3. teacher	_____	_____	_____
4. woman	_____	_____	_____
5. berry	_____	_____	_____
6. baby	_____	_____	_____
7. child	_____	_____	_____
8. goose	_____	_____	_____
9. thief	_____	_____	_____
10. chief	_____	_____	_____

# Plural or Possessive Noun?

**Directions:** Circle the correct noun form and explain in a complete sentence why it is the correct form.

**Example:** Mr. Morton's / Mr. Mortons favorite flavor of ice cream is strawberry.

Explain why your answer is correct: "Mr. Morton's" is correct because in this sentence Mr. Morton is singular, and the apostrophe indicates possession.

1. The **cars** / **car's** / **cars'** brakes failed to operate on the snowy mountain road.

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

2. On weekends, **students** / **student's** / **students'** love to sleep in.

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Albert Einsteins** / **Albert Einstein's** / **Albert Einsteins'** theory of relativity changed our understanding of time.

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Civil liberties** / **Civil liberty's** / **Civil liberties'** were bought with blood.

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Todays** / **Today's** / **Todays'** lesson taught us how to indicate possession.

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Fast food has **its** / **it's** downsides.

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

## More Possessive Noun Practice:

Write the possessive form of the noun in parentheses in the space provided.

1	The <b>(cat)</b> meows softened after it was fed.	<b>cat's</b>
2	<b>(Jamal)</b> car accelerated quickly.	
3	<b>(Mrs. Jackson)</b> head throbbed after teaching all day.	
4	Mr. Jones stared in shock when the five <b>(students)</b> table broke and fell during class.	
5	<b>(Jerome)</b> test results were inconclusive.	
6	The <b>(children)</b> parents were notified that school was closed.	
7	The <b>(babies)</b> cries coming from the daycare were very loud.	
8	The class was incredulous when the <b>(principal)</b> assistant told them that they would have homework every day of the year.	

**Now, complete the Plural & Possessive Noun Practice on NoRedInk.**