

Spelling Noun Plurals

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Plurals of nouns can be created in the following ways:

1. Add an -s to form the plural of most words.
 - elephant -- elephants
 - stereo -- stereos
2. For words that end in a “hissing” sound (-s, -z, -x, -ch, -sh), add an -es to form the plural.
 - box -- boxes
 - church -- churches
3. If the word ends in a vowel plus -y (-ay, -ey, -iy, -oy, -uy), add an -s to form the word.
 - tray -- trays
 - key -- keys
4. If the word ends in a consonant plus -y, change the -y into -ie and add an -s to form the plural.
 - enemy -- enemies
 - baby -- babies
5. For words that end in -is, change the -is to -es to make the plural form.
 - synopsis -- synopses
 - thesis -- theses
6. Some words that end in -f or -fe have plurals that end in -ves.
 - knife -- knives
 - self -- selves
7. The plurals of words ending in -o are formed by either adding -s or by adding -es. The plurals of many words can be formed **either** way. To determine whether a particular word ends in -s or -es (or if the word can be spelled either way), check your dictionary or the list below. There are two helpful rules:
 - a. All words that end in a vowel plus -o (-ao, -eo, -io, -oo, -uo) have plurals that end in just -s:

- stereo -- stereos
- studio -- studios
- duo -- duos

b. All musical terms ending in -o have plurals ending in just -s.

- piano -- pianos
- cello -- cellos
- solo -- solos

c. Plural forms of words ending in -o:

-os	-oes	-os or -oes
albinos	echoes	avocados / oes
armadillos	embargoes	buffaloes / os
autos	heroes	cargoes / os
bravos	potatoes	desperadoes / os
brancos	tomatoes	dodoes / os
cantos	torpedoes	dominoes / os
casinos	vetoos	ghettos / oes
combos		hoboes / os
gazebos		innuendoes / os
infernos		lassos / oes
kimonos		mangoes / os
logos		mosquitoes / os
ponchos		mottoes / os
sombreros		palmettos / oes
tacos		tornadoes / os
torsos		volcanoes / os
tobaccos		zeros / oes
typos		

If you are unsure of how to make a noun plural, you can look up the singular form of noun in a dictionary to get the plural form.

From: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/grammar/spelnoun.html>