

Singular - Plural

1. Regular Plural

-s	hats, mouths, books dogs, shoes, days	[s] [z]
-es	glasses, bushes, buses	[iz]
-ies	country - countries but: boy - boys	Mitlaut + y → -ies Selbstlaut + y → -ys
-ves	wife - wives, calf - calves, thief - thieves, ... but: roofs, safes, cliffs, ...	
-oes	potato - potatoes, hero - heroes, tomato - tomatoes but: photos, radios, pianos, ...	

2. Irregular Plural

man	- men	ox	- oxen
woman	- women	mouse	- mice
goose	- geese	louse	- lice
foot	- feet	sheep	- sheep
tooth	- teeth	fish	- fish
child	- children	deer	- deer
fruit	- fruit		

Mind: fishes = verschiedene Fischarten

3. No Plural Forms

collective nouns: people, cattle, food, the rich, the poor, furniture, ...

Mind: peoples = Völker

materials: glass, wood, water, tea, ...

abstract nouns: help, peace, information, knowledge, progress, courage,
e.g.: Furniture is expensive.

Singular - Plural

4. Nouns taking a Verb in the Plural

a pair of ...trousers, shorts, scissors, clothes
customs (der Zoll), contents, stairs, police

e.g.: Where **are** my scissors (meine Schere)?
The contents of this box **are** heavy.
The police **are** friendly.

5. Nouns taking a Verb in the Singular

News, Mathematics, Physics, the United States, The Netherlands, ...

e.g.: No news **is** good news.
The United States **is** a vast country.

The Article

Definite:

the man, the car	[ə]	before consonants
the orange, the apple	[i]	before vowels

Indefinite:

a man, a car		before consonants
an orange, an apple		before vowels

Bei allgemeinen Aussagen steht bei Jahreszeiten, Namen, Zeitangaben, Materialien kein "the":

After dinner she went home.

On Monday we'll go.

Prince Philipp lives in Buckingham Palace.

Bei einer näheren Bestimmung wird "the" verwendet:

The dinner at Pat's house was excellent.

The Monday after X-mas was a great day.

The Queen Elisabeth is a big ship.