



Numbers

In your examination, a question regarding Numbers is asked in the following manner.

Q. Fill in the blanks with the words plural in number to those given in brackets.

1. Many ago, he came here. (year)
2. All the were present in the class. (student)
3. The are playing in the ground. (child)
4. She cut it into (piece)

Ans. 1. years 2. students 3. children 4. pieces

Definition : A form of noun which tells us whether it is single or more than single is called number of that noun.

There are two Numbers in English language.

1. **Singular Number** : It refers to one person/place/thing. As : man, pen, city etc.
2. **Plural Number** : It refers to more than one person/place/thing. As : men, pens, cities etc.

There are some rules with the help of which you can convert a Singular Number Noun into Plural Number Noun. Here we are giving those rules, read them carefully.

Rules to form Plural Number Nouns from Singular Number Nouns

Rule 1. In general, 's' is added to make plural number from a singular number. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
boy	boys	girl	girls
pen	pens	cow	cows

Rule 2. The nouns, having 's', 'ss', 'ch', 'sh', 'z', 'x' as last (suffix) alphabet, are converted to plural number by adding 'es' to their end. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
box	boxes	class	classes
buzz	buzzes	watch	watches
bunch	bunches	bush	bushes

Rule 3. If a word is having 'y' at its end and the last alphabet 'y' is preceded by a vowel, then its plural is formed by adding 's'. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
boy	boys	monkey	monkeys
day	days	joy	joys

Rule 4. If a word is having 'y' at its end and this 'y' is preceded by a consonant, then its plural can be formed by replacing 'y' by 'ies'. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
baby	babies	city	cities
country	countries	lady	ladies
story	stories	enemy	enemies

Rule 5. If a word ends with 'f' or 'fe', its plural is formed by way of writing 'ves' in place of 'f' or 'fe'. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
calf	calves	knife	knives
thief	thieves	wife	wives
half	halves	life	lives

Note : For some of the words though ending with 'fe' or 'f', we put 's' after it to make it Plural number. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
chief	chiefs	roof	roofs

Rule 6. Words, having 'o' at their end, are made Plural by adding 'es' to them. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
hero	heroes	tomato	tomatoes
mango	mangoes	potato	potatoes

But : Some words in short form or having foreign origin are made Plural by adding 's' to them. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
kilo	kilos	photo	photos

Rule 7. Some words are formed Plural by way of changing their vowels. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
man	men	tooth	teeth
foot	feet	mouse	mice

Rule 8. Some words are made Plural by adding 'en' or 'ren'. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
ox	oxen	child	children

Rule 9. Compound Nouns are made plural by changing the last word into plural form. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
step-son	step-sons	boy-friend	boy-friends

But : If we have combination of "Noun + Pronoun + Noun", (then), the first word is made Plural. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
father-in-law	fathers-in-law	mother-in-law	mothers-in-law

Rule 10. Some nouns do not change, that is they are similar in both Singular as well as Plural numbers. As :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
deer	deer	fish	fish
sheep	sheep	dozen	dozen

Rule 11. Singular number and Plural number of 'Pronouns' are as follows :

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
I	we	he, she, it	they
me	us	him, her	them
my	our	himself, herself	themselves
myself	ourselves	his, her	their
yourself	yourselves		

Important Words and their Plurals

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
toy	toys	century	centuries
himself	themselves	ray	rays
thief	thieves	foot	feet
leaf	leaves	handcuff	handcuffs
story	stories	thing	things
memory	memories	paper	papers
life	lives	orchard	orchards
day	days	mango	mangoes

Singular

guava
pot
flower
condition
ticket
god
horse
park
gift
piece
son
forest
mountain
tunnel
child
coin
this
thought
egg
serpent
nest
tooth
window
policeman
mile
pillow
tool
woman

Plural

guavas
pots
flowers
conditions
tickets
gods
horses
parks
gifts
pieces
sons
forests
mountains
tunnels
children
coins
these
thoughts
eggs
serpents
nests
teeth
windows
policemen
miles
pillows
tools
women

Singular

bank
pan
insect
date
seat
instrument
statue
garden
dress
camel
brother
plant
heap
difference
wife
box
match
dove
trunk
wing
goose
dish
bee
owner
enemy
family
myself

Plural

banks
pans
insects
dates
seats
instruments
statues
gardens
dresses
camels
brothers
plants
heaps
differences
wives
boxes
matches
doves
trunks
wings
geese
dishes
bees
owners
enemies
families
ourselves

