Irregular Plurals

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Irregular Plurals

We will learn the 10 typical patterns of irregular plurals then some words with Latin endings.

1. OO → EE
2. No change
3. EN ending
4. OUSE → ICE
5. French X
6. Hebrew IIMI
7. Italian O → I
8. Two-part plurals
9. Plural only
10. Completely irregular
11. Latin endings

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OO → EE Irregular Plurals

Words that have the vowels OO in the middle of the word often change to EE in the plural form.

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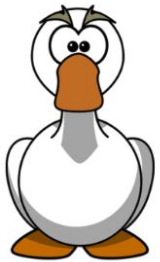
OO → EE

Irregular Plurals

Foot

Feet

Goose



Geese

Tooth

Teeth

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OO → EE Irregular Plurals

But be aware, because this is not for all words where there is OO.

Boot → Boots

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No Change

Irregular Plurals

There are numerous words where the plural form is exactly the same as the singular form. It doesn't change.

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No Change

Irregular Plurals

salmon → salmon

cod → cod

trout → trout

pike → pike

The majority of fish names have the same singular and plural forms.

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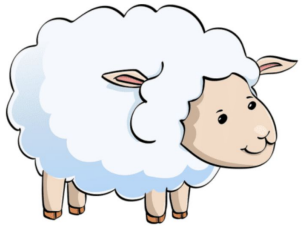
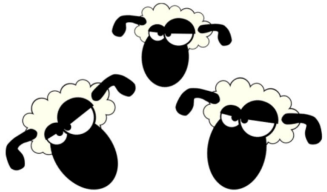
No Change

Irregular Plurals

Sheep



Sheep



Deer

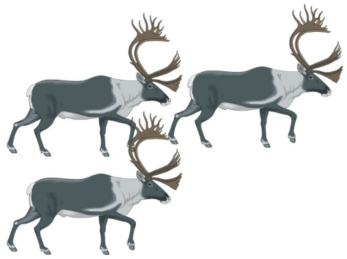
Deer

Bison

Bison

Moose

Moose



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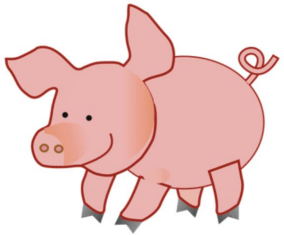
No Change

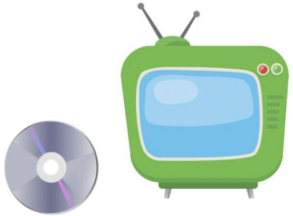
Irregular Plurals

Swine



Swine

Series



Series

Species

Species

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EN Ending

Irregular Plurals

There are a few words that have a variation of adding EN to the end of the word in the plural.

Be careful, because there are some words where more than EN is added and some words where letters are replaced with EN.

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EN Ending

Irregular Plurals

Child

Children

Ox

Oxen

Man

Men

Woman

Women

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OUSE - ICE

Irregular Plurals

Two particular words ending in OUSE change this to ICE.

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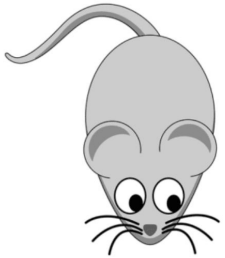
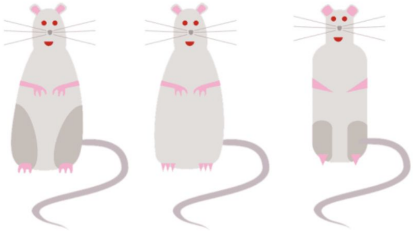
OUSE - ICE

Irregular Plurals

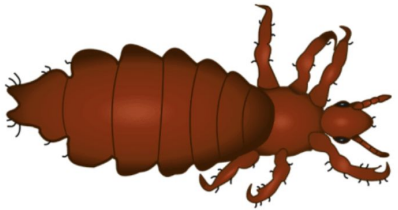
Mouse



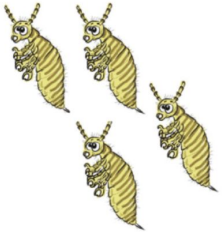
Mice



Louse



Lice



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French X

Irregular Plurals

There are many words that originate from the French language and often end in EAU. To form the plural, you add an X to the end.

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French X

Irregular Plurals

All of these words originate from French but we do have English alternatives to all these words.

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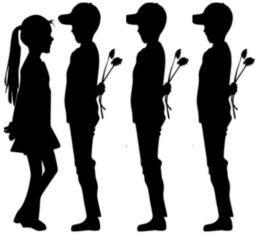
French X Irregular Plurals

Beau

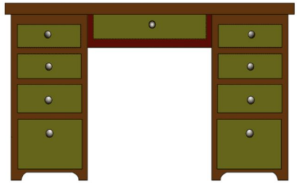
Beaux



Chateau

Chateaux

Bureau



Bureaux

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Hebrew IM

Irregular Plurals

There are many Hebrew words that add IM to form the plural. These words are not that common in the English language, but do exist and can be used.

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Hebrew IM

Irregular Plurals

Cherub

Cherubim

Seraph

Seraphim

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Italian O - I

Irregular Plurals

A lot of words that originate from Italian and end in O change this O to an I in the plural form.

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Italian O - I

Irregular Plurals

Libretto → Libretti

Tempo → Tempi

Virtuoso → Virtuosi

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2 parts

Irregular Plurals

There are many hyphenated words in English which have two or more parts.
In English, we cannot make adjectives or prepositions plural, we can only change the noun part to the plural form.
This might mean that the S does not go at the end of a word, but in the middle.

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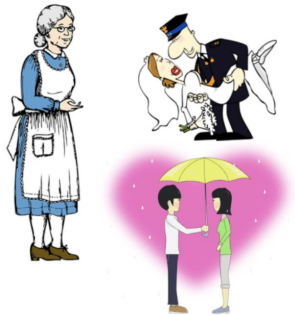
2 parts

Irregular Plurals

Son-in-law

Sons-in-law



Runner-up

Runners-up

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Plural only

Irregular Plurals

There is a small group of words that is exactly the same for the singular and plural, but this is because it only exists in the plural form.

These words never exist in the singular form. This means the words will always use the plural form of a verb.

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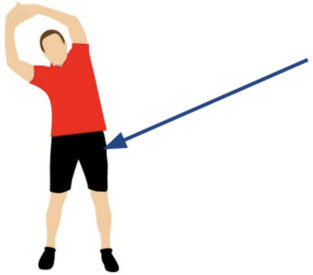
Plural only

Irregular Plurals

Glasses

Shorts



Scissors

Jeans

Tweezers

Binoculars

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Irregular

Irregular Plurals

There are also a few words which are completely different in their plural form. They are words which people say incorrectly most often, so it's very important that you learn these irregular plurals!

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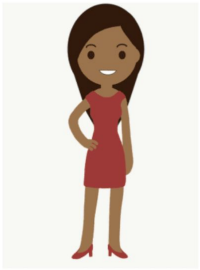
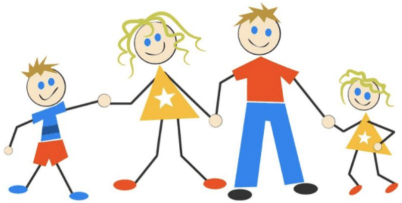
Irregular

Irregular Plurals

Person



People



Penny

Pence

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Latin

Irregular Plurals

There are numerous words that have Latin endings and these are also a little bit irregular. Let's take a look!

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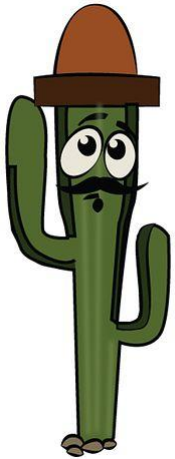
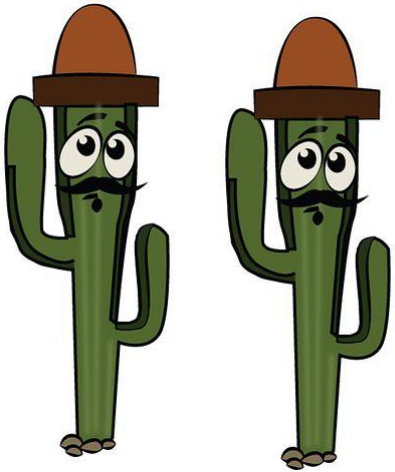
Latin

Irregular Plurals

Words ending in US eliminate US and add I



cactus



cacti

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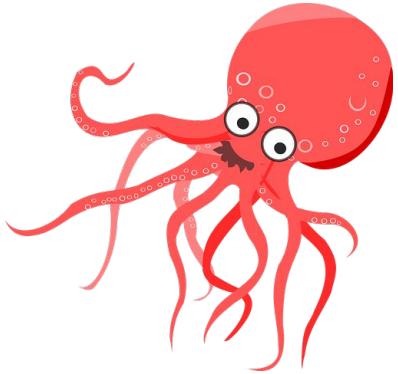
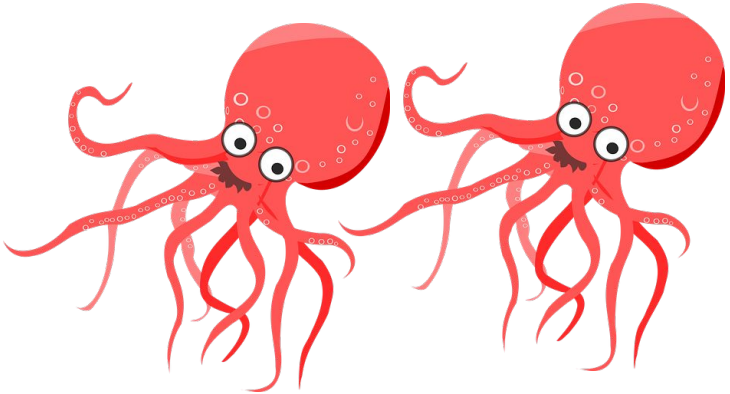
Latin

Irregular Plurals





octopus

octopi

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Latin

Irregular Plurals

Words ending in UM eliminate UM and add A

curriculum

curricula

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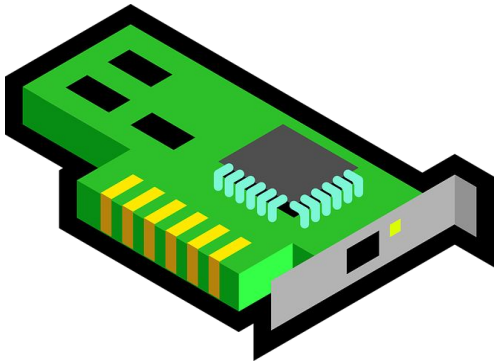
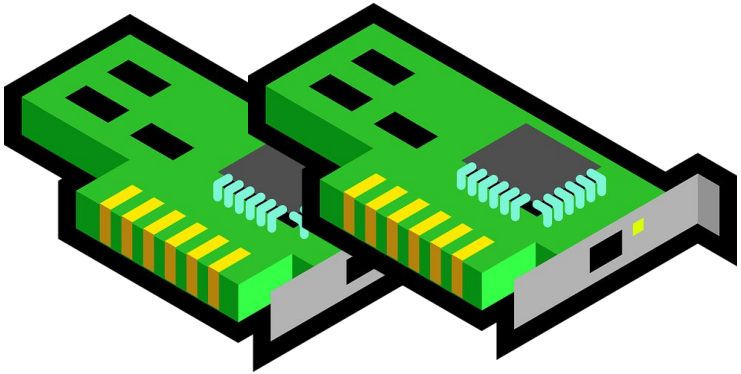
Latin Irregular Plurals



datum



data

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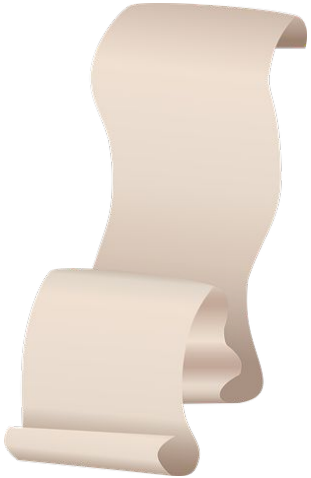
Latin

Irregular Plurals

Words ending in IS change to ES



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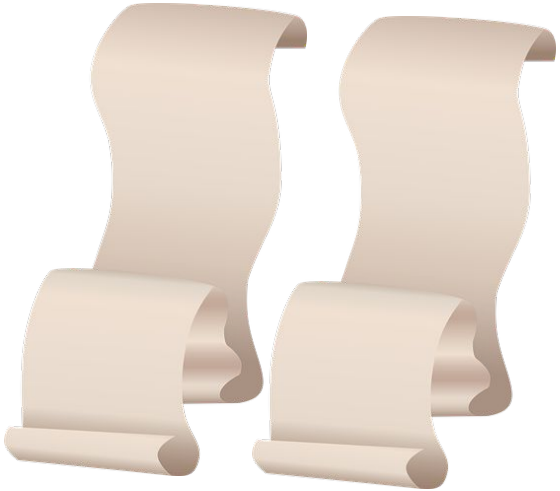

theses

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Latin

Irregular Plurals

analysis

analyses

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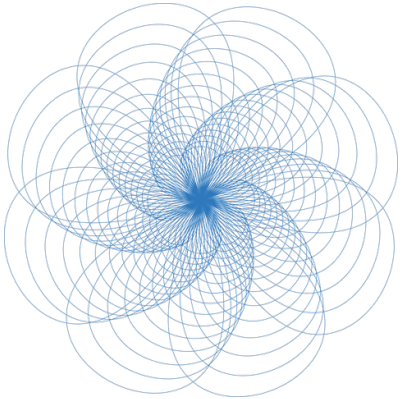
Latin

Irregular Plurals

Words ending in ON eliminate ON and add A



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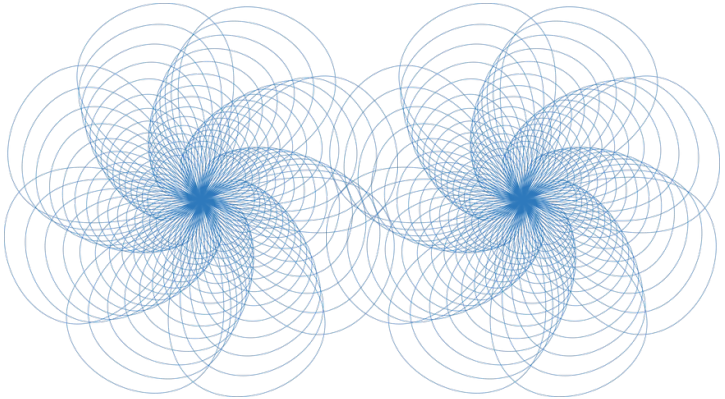

phenomena

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Latin

Irregular Plurals

Words ending in IX eliminate X and add CES

appendix

appendices

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Latin

Irregular Plurals

Words ending in EX eliminate EX and add ICES

apex

apices

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