

Singular and plural nouns

I can form the plural of a range of regular and irregular nouns.

- 1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Who are the people in the photo on the right? What do you know about them?

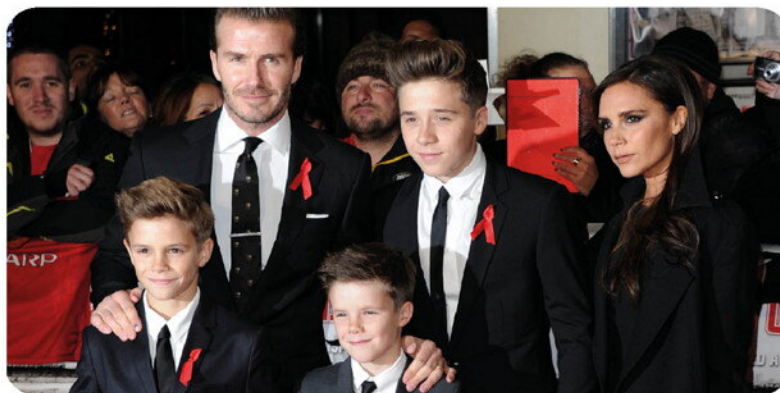
Posh and Becks

THE BECKHAMS are a famous family from Britain. Becks is the nickname of David Beckham, ex-footballer of Manchester United, Real Madrid and England. Posh is the nickname of his wife, Victoria, a member of the girl-band the Spice Girls.

Victoria is called 'Posh' because she loves posh, expensive clothes. She says she really likes sunglasses too, because it's easy to look cool in them! Now she is a fashion designer. Her company makes very expensive dresses, accessories and jewellery, but also ordinary clothes like jeans and jackets.

David doesn't play football now, but he owns a football team in Miami, Florida. David has got 32 tattoos! He says they are all about the people in his life, his wife and children. David Beckham is a hero to many English football fans.

The Beckhams do a lot of work for charities and they appear a lot on television. They have got four children. Their sons are Brooklyn, Romeo and Cruz, and their daughter is called Harper. The boys are footballers too, and hope to play for England one day.



- 4 **DICTIONARY WORK** Look at the dictionary entry. How does it show the plural form of the noun?

baby /'beibi/ **noun** (plural **babies**) a very young child:
She's going to **have a baby**. ◇ a baby boy ◇ a baby girl

- 5 What is the plural form of these nouns? Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 uncle _____ | 6 life _____ |
| 2 address _____ | 7 lady _____ |
| 3 day _____ | 8 tooth _____ |
| 4 video _____ | 9 mother _____ |
| 5 match _____ | 10 knife _____ |

LOOK OUT!

- a** Some nouns are always plural (e.g. *scissors, trousers*).
b Some nouns have no plural form. We call these uncountable nouns (e.g. *homework, information, luggage, help, advice*).

- 6 Read the **Look out!** box. Match the nouns highlighted in blue in the text with point a or point b.

- 7 There are mistakes in some of these sentences. Find them and correct them.

- My jeans is very old.
- Put the knives and forks on the table.
- I love babies.
- I'd like some informations about trains.
- Can I see some photoes of your family?
- I've got two watches.
- She's got very big feets.
- I've got lots of homeworks this evening.

- 8 Work in pairs. Write three questions about the Beckhams. Do not show your partner.

Is David Beckham American?

- 9 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Cover the text. Then ask and answer the questions.

Is David Beckham American?

No, he isn't. He's British.

- 2 Read the text. Which family member is missing from the photo?

- 3 Read the **Learn this!** box. Match the nouns highlighted in orange in the text with one of the rules (a–g). Give the singular and plural forms of each noun.

LEARN THIS! Singular and plural forms

- a** To make the plural of most nouns we add -s.
brother → *brothers*
- b** If the noun ends in -s, -sh, -ch, -z, or -x, we add -es.
bus → *buses* *class* → *classes* *dish* → *dishes*
church → *churches* *watch* → *watches* *box* → *boxes*
- c** If the noun ends in -o, we add -s or sometimes -es.
photo → *photos* *potato* → *potatoes*
- d** If the noun ends in a consonant + -y, we change -y to -ies.
party → *parties*
- e** If the noun ends in a vowel + -y, we add -s.
holiday → *holidays*
- f** If the noun ends in -f or -fe, we change -f or -fe to -ves.
shelf → *shelves*
- g** Some nouns have irregular plural forms.
foot → *feet* *man* → *men* *woman* → *women*

Singular and plural nouns

I can form the plural of a range of regular and irregular nouns.

- 1 Complete the spelling rules in column A with the plural endings below.

-es -es -ies -s -s -s -ves

A Spelling rules	B Examples
1 To make the plural of most nouns we add _____.	¹ singer – singers 2 _____
2 If the noun ends in -s, -sh, -ch, -z, or -x, we add _____.	3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____
3 If the noun ends in -o, we add _____ or sometimes _____.	6 _____
4 If the noun ends in a consonant + -y, we change -y to _____.	7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____ 10 _____
5 If the noun ends in a vowel + -y, we add _____.	11 _____
6 If the noun ends in -f or -fe, we change -f or -fe to _____.	12 _____

- 2 Complete column B in exercise 1 with the underlined nouns in the text below. Write the singular and plural forms.

Famous families

WILL SMITH is a famous actor. His wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, is an actress, singer and businesswoman. They have got two children, Jaden and Willow. Jaden is an actor too – the star of 'The Karate Kid' – and Willow is a singer and dancer. The family have got a charity, The Will and Jada Smith Family Foundation. It helps poor young people in American cities.



SERENA AND VENUS

WILLIAMS come from a large family – with five girls and no boys! They are both famous tennis players. Venus is the winner of seven singles Grand Slams. She is the first black woman to be Number 1 in the world. Venus has got a clothes company that makes dresses, skirts and tops. Serena is the winner of more tennis matches than any other female player. She speaks French, Italian and Spanish – and English, of course. She has got a tattoo of a heart on her neck.



- 3 Which rules in exercise 1 do these nouns follow? Write 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6.

a dictionary 4 d box _____
b day _____ e potato _____
c knife _____ f brother _____

- 4 Complete the sentences with the plural forms of the nouns in exercise 3.

1 There are seven _____ in a week.
2 We've got fifteen English _____ on the shelf in our classroom.
3 I've got a sister and two _____.
4 I keep my CDs in two _____ under my bed.
5 Let's have steak, _____ and peas for dinner.
6 Can you put the plates, _____, forks and spoons on the table, please?

- 5 Look at the *italic* words in the text in exercise 2. Add them to the rules below. If possible, write the singular and plural forms.

1 Some nouns have irregular plural forms.

2 Some nouns are always plural.

3 Some nouns have no plural form. We call these uncountable nouns.

- 6 Complete the sentences with the words below. Sometimes you need to change the form.

help jeans man sunglasses tooth water

1 Can you give me some _____ with my homework? It's very difficult.
2 'I'm thirsty.' 'Have a glass of _____.'
3 Always brush your _____ before you go to bed.
4 The sun is very bright. Where are my _____?
5 Joe has got a white top and blue _____.
6 Can you see those two _____ over there? They're my uncles.

VOCAB BOOST!

When you learn a new noun, make a note of the plural form and check if it follows one of the rules in exercise 1 or if it is irregular. You can find the plural forms in a dictionary.

- 7 Read the *Vocab boost!* box. Write the plural forms of the nouns below. Use a dictionary to help you.

1 key keys 4 mouse _____
2 half _____ 5 sheep _____
3 ski _____ 6 roof _____