

# UNIT 15

## Singular and plural

**Singular** means **one** person, animal, place or thing.

**Plural** means **more than one**.

To make a noun **plural**, we usually add **s**.

shadow – shadows      rabbit – rabbits

To make **nouns** ending in **s, ch, sh** and **x** plural, we add **es**.

glass – glasses      match – matches  
flash – flashes      box – boxes

When a **noun** ends in **vowel + y** we just add **s**.

chimney – chimneys      boy – boys

When a **noun** ends in **consonant + y** we take off the **y** and add **ies**.

body – bodies      lorry – lorries

**Nouns** ending in **f** and **fe** can be made **plural** by changing the **f** or **fe** to **v** and adding **es**.



shelf – shelves



knife – knives

For some **f** and **fe** words, we just add **s**.

chief – chiefs

gulf – gulfs

oaf – oafs

muff – muffs

cliff – cliffs

sheriff – sheriffs

reef – reefs

roof – roofs



You have to learn these!



### Focus

What is the **plural** of each noun?

1 leaf

2 roof

3 sheaf

4 life

5 thief

6 cliff

7 half

8 wife

### Practice

**A** Write the **plurals** of these nouns.

1 calf

2 loaf

3 shelf

4 chief

**B** Put each of the **plural nouns** from **A** in sentences of your own.

**C** Write the **singular** of these nouns.

1 wolves

2 staffs

3 safes

4 elves

**D** Put each of the **singular nouns** from **C** in sentences of your own.

### Extension

Some **nouns** ending in **f** or **fe** can have an **s** or **ves** ending.

wharf

– wharfs

or wharves

hoof

– hoofs

or hooves

dwarf

– dwarfs

or dwarves

scarf

– scarfs

or scarves

handkerchief

– handkerchiefs

or handkerchieves

Use **plural nouns** ending in **s** or **ves** to finish each sentence.

1 \_\_\_\_\_ grow on trees.

2 We use \_\_\_\_\_ for blowing our noses.

3 \_\_\_\_\_ are used for cutting.

4 People who steal things are called \_\_\_\_\_.

5 Horses have four \_\_\_\_\_.

6 \_\_\_\_\_ kept law and order in the Wild West.

