**Plurals and Pronunciation**

Many words in English form their plural form by adding an “s” on the end of the word.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Singular (1) | Plural (2+) | |  |  | | Boy | Boys | |  |  | | Oxfordskor.png  Shoe | Oxfordskor.png  Shoes | |  |
|  |  |

Sometimes the “s” is pronounced with a hissing, “snake” sound:

[](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.wildlife-fantasy.com/artwork/snake.jpg&imgrefurl=http://www.wildlife-fantasy.com/artwork/snake.php&h=437&w=447&sz=15&hl=en&start=3&um=1&tbnid=MEw3R73xTWL0mM:&tbnh=124&tbnw=127&prev=/images?q%3Dsnake%26svnum%3D10%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DN) Sssssssss

The word “Cats” is pronounced “Cats(ssss)”

Other times, the “s” is pronounced with a buzzing, “bee” sound:

[](http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.webweaver.nu/clipart/img/nature/insects/bumblebee-flower.png&imgrefurl=http://www.webweaver.nu/clipart/insects-bees.shtml&h=185&w=250&sz=18&hl=en&start=2&um=1&tbnid=pzNjmeLSAYsk8M:&tbnh=82&tbnw=111&prev=/images?q%3Dbumble%2Bbee%2Bclipart%26svnum%3D10%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den)Zzzzzzzzz

**P00011**

The word “Dogs” is pronounced “Dogz(zzzz).”

 Peter Schmitt / Open-ESL.org PJS – 02/04/2010

**”Regular” plurals- just add “s”**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular (1)** | **Plural (2+)** | |
| Room | Rooms | (Zzzz) |
| Rat | Rats | (Ssss) |
| Apple | Apples | (Zzzz) |
| Pen | Pens | (Zzzz) |
| Pencil | Pencils | (Zzzz) |
| Radio | Radios | (Zzzz) |
| Map | Maps | (Ssss) |
| Cat | Cats | (Ssss) |
| Dog | Dogs | (Zzzz) |
| Elephant | Elephants | (Ssss) |
| Goat | Goats | (Ssss) |
| Hat | Hats | (Ssss) |
| Jar | Jars | (Zzzz) |
| King | Kings | (Zzzz) |
| Lion | Lions | (Zzzz) |
| Nest | Nests | (Ssss) |
| Pig | Pigs | (Zzzz) |
| Queen | Queens | (Zzzz) |
| Rainbow | Rainbows | (Zzzz) |
| Tree | Trees | (Zzzz) |
| Umbrella | Umbrellas | (Zzzz) |
| Violin | Violins | (Zzzz) |
| Zebra | Zebras | (Zzzz) |

**Some words that end in “y” make a plural by replacing the “y” with “ies”:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular (1)** | **Plural (2+)** | |
| Baby | Babies | (Zzzz) |
| Party | Parties | (Zzzz) |
| Patty | Patties | (Zzzz) |
| Fly | Flies | (Zzzz) |
| Country | Countries | (Zzzz) |
| City | Cities | (Zzzz) |

**Other words have plural forms that are very different than the singular:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular (1)** | **Plural (2+)** | |
| Man | Men |  |
| Goose | Geese |  |
| Woman | Women |  |
| Child  Mouse | Children  Mice |  |
| Cactus | Cacti |  |
|  |  |  |

**There are a few words where the singular and plural are the same:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Singular (1)** | **Plural (2+)** | |
| Sheep  Aircraft  Fish | Sheep  Aircraft  Fish (or fishes) |  |

**P00011**