

LESSON 24

Singular and Plural Nouns

See inside back cover for more spelling rules.

See Appendix G for special nouns.

Most nouns can be singular or plural.

Spelling of Regular Plural Nouns

	Singular	Plural
1. Add <i>s</i> to most nouns.	a car an apartment	cars apartments
2. For nouns that end in <i>s</i> , <i>ss</i> , <i>ch</i> , <i>sh</i> , <i>x</i> , and <i>z</i> , add <i>-es</i> .	a dress an inch	dresses inches
3. For nouns that end in consonant + <i>y</i> , change the <i>y</i> to <i>i</i> and add <i>-es</i> .	a puppy a dictionary	puppies dictionaries
4. For nouns that end in <i>f</i> , change the <i>f</i> to <i>v</i> and add <i>-es</i> .	a shelf a wife	shelves wives

Irregular Plurals

	Singular	Plural (do not add -s)
Some nouns have irregular plural forms. They do not end in <i>s</i> .	a man a woman a person a child	men women people children

Some nouns are always plural: *glasses*, *jeans*, *pants*, *shorts*.

A or An with singular nouns:

A and *an* = one. Use *a* and *an* with singular nouns.
 Use *a* when the next word begins with a consonant sound (a hat, a new engine).
 Use *an* when the next word starts with a vowel sound (an umbrella, an old book).
 Use *an* when the next word starts with a silent *h* (an hour, an honest man).
 Use *a* when *u* is pronounced *y* (a university, a used book).
 Use *one* only when you are counting (one book, two books).
 Do not use *a* or *an* with plural nouns (correct: a book Incorrect: a books)



A Mimi and Rob are looking at newspaper ads. Underline the singular nouns. Circle the plural nouns. Then listen. Circle the ads Mimi and Rob are talking about.

a. I'm selling an old truck. It's only 10 years old. It has a new engine and new brakes. It's only \$2,000. Call Ed 273-2252

b. Our beautiful dog is a new mom! We have three free puppies. They're very cute! Call Miranda 253-0994

c. I'm moving! I need boxes! I'm also selling a used car. Call Jerry 525-3003

d. I'm having a garage sale on July 5, 9:00 to 4:00, 456 Oak St. I have 2 bicycles, clocks, a rug, an answering machine, and toys. Call early!

B Here's a list of things that Mimi and Rob want. Write *a* or *an* on the lines next to singular nouns. Write "X" on the lines next to plural nouns.

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. <u>an</u> old camera | 4. _____ bicycles | 7. _____ English dictionary |
| 2. _____ computer | 5. _____ antique clock | 8. _____ used books |
| 3. _____ oriental rug | 6. _____ answering machine | 9. _____ umbrellas |

C Mimi and Rob are at the garage sale on Oak Street. Read the sentences and make the nouns plural.

- There are a lot of (person) people at the garage sale.
- Some (woman) _____ are buying (toy) _____ for their (baby) _____.
- Two strong (man) _____ are carrying heavy (box) _____.
- Mimi is buying three (dish) _____ and two big (bookshelf) _____.
- Three (child) _____ are playing with some (puppy) _____.
- Some (boy) _____ are buying computer (game) _____.



D Find the mistakes. Rewrite the sentences.

- The truck has new engine. The truck has a new engine.
- Mimi and Bob want many thing. _____
- Mimi wants to get puppy. _____
- She needs new bicycle. _____
- They need more box. _____
- They are selling three puppys. _____
- Many peoples are here. _____
- The childrens have a lot of toys. _____
- Mimi and Bob have apartment. _____
- They are new student in this school. _____