

PET COMMON WRITING MISTAKES 9

How do I make nouns plural?

1. Each of the sentences below contains a mistake. Find and correct the mistakes.

Example: My uncle and aunt have four ~~childrens~~ *children*: two boys and two girls.

1. We spent the time going to museums, visiting shops and at night going to partys and discos.
2. I bought some meat, two fishes, two small lettuces and a kilo of potatoes.
3. The guests arrived with their husbands, wives, boyfriends or girlfriends.

2. Complete the rules by writing one of the examples from the box below in each gap.

*book – books branch – branches child – children clothes disco – discos dish – dishes fish foot – feet half – halves
kiss – kisses lady – ladies man – men person – people photo – photos roof – roofs sheep tomato – tomatoes
tooth – teeth trousers wife – wives woman – women*

- We make most nouns plural by adding –s to the singular form: y(1) ...*book – books*. However
- when the noun ends in *ch, o, s, or sh*, we add –es: (2) (Exceptions: (3)
- when the noun ends in *y*, the plural form ends in –ies: (4)
- when the noun ends in *f* or *fe* the plural form is often (but not always) –ves: (5) (Exception: (6)
- There are a few common nouns which have an irregular plural: y(7)
- For some (but not all) animals, the plural form is the same as the singular, especially: y(8)
- A few words are always plural: y(9)

3. Seven of the sentences below contain mistakes made by intermediate students in Cambridge exams. Two sentences are correct (✓). Find and correct the mistakes.

stories

Example: He told us lots of ~~stors~~ *stories* about Australia, which we really enjoyed.

1. I have to look after little childrens from five to ten years old.
2. I know you love beaches, so I think Greece would be a great place for you to have a holiday.
3. I met a lot of friendly peoples when I visited London.
4. I suppose you like old churches and castles.
5. I'll take some photoes of your town when I visit.
6. She put the clothes in the cupboard and the books on the shelves.

ANSWERS

1.

- 1 ~~partys~~-parties
- 2 ~~fishs~~-fish / fishes
- 3 ~~wifes~~-wives

2.

- (2) *branch – branches, dish – dishes, kiss – kisses, tomato – tomatoes*
- (3) *disco – discos, photo – photos*
- (4) *lady – ladies*
- (5) *half – halves, wife – wives*
- (6) *roof – roofs*
- (7) *child – children, foot – feet, man – men, person – people, tooth – teeth, woman – women*
- (8) *fish, sheep*
- (9) *clothes, trousers*

3.

- 1 ~~childrens~~-children
- 2 ~~beachs~~-beaches
- 3 ~~peoples~~-people
- 4 ✓
- 5 ~~photoes~~-photos
- 6 ✓