



READING WORKS

Uncountables

Plurals without s on the end

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This collection has 195 plural nouns that do not have **s** on the end. Collective nouns are also here.
General knowledge that informs and entertains makes learning memorable and a pleasure - and gives it purpose.

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Background information about nouns

Definition: A **noun** is a word that is the **name** of people, places, things or ideas.

Types of Nouns	Examples
<p>Common nouns - name words of non-specific people, places and things.</p>	<p>Plurals (more than one) for common nouns usually end in s: <i>rivers, men, states, ships, buildings, people, countries, foxes, tomatoes.</i></p>
<p>Proper nouns - name words of people, places, brands and titles: <i>New South Wales is a state. QM2 was magnificent.</i></p>	<p>Singular (only one) <i>New South Wales, Queen Mary 2, Nile River, Shakespeare, Mount Everest, Aston Martin (brand)</i></p>
<p>Countable nouns - things that can be counted. Plural nouns need a plural verb. Note: The past tense word <i>had</i> suits both singular and plural nouns, as in: <i>She had a lot of books. They had a lot of books.</i> <i>Tom hadn't a moment to lose. We hadn't a moment to lose.</i></p>	<p><i>Birds (one bird, two birds, three birds etc), one loaf, two loaves; one lady, several ladies; an echo, many echoes; a man, two men.</i> Plural verbs (action words) to know are: <i>are, were, have</i> e.g. <i>These loaves of bread are fresh. The pieces of music were beautifully played. Those apples have not yet ripened.</i></p>
<p>Uncountable or mass nouns - things that cannot be counted. (You cannot say <i>one bread, two breads, or one music, two musics</i> etc.) Uncountable nouns are always singular.</p>	<p><i>Oxygen, water, milk, fruit, parsley, butter, rice, yoghurt, music, honey, accommodation.</i> Singular verbs to know are: <i>is, was, has</i> e.g. <i>This bread is fresh. The music was beautifully played. The fruit has not yet ripened.</i></p>
<p>Collective nouns - these are name words describing a group of people, animals or things. A collective noun is considered singular. A team, group or country is one entity, and so needs a singular verb. NOTE: Many collective nouns can be pluralised with an <i>s</i> - as in <i>flocks of sheep, prides of lions; fleets of ships, flights of stairs, choirs of children.</i></p>	<p>Verbs must agree with their noun in number. These sentences are correct: <i>The family is ready. The team has arrived. England has lost the cricket. The choir is very talented.</i> These sentences are incorrect: <i>The family are ready. The team have arrived. England have lost the cricket. The choir are very talented.</i></p>

Types of Nouns	Examples
Singular nouns - one only or one group. Singular nouns need a singular verb. They can be common or proper nouns.	Singular common and proper noun examples: <i>sparrow, herd, furniture, Fiji, Mary, hair, fun.</i>
Plural-only nouns - nouns which have a plural form although they are sometimes singular and sometimes plural in meaning:	<i>Police, mathematics, scissors, shorts, binoculars, glasses, clothes</i> (i.e. garments such as <i>trousers, pants, shorts</i>). <i>The police are busy. Mathematics is fun. My scissors are sharp.</i>

Types of plural nouns that do not end with s	
Identical plural and singular nouns - same spelling for each.	<i>Deer, moose, aircraft, spacecraft, sheep, cannon.</i>
Irregular plurals - not common, but these plurals end with <i>en</i> .	<i>Ox/oxen, child/children, (unusual - brother/brethren)</i>
Ablaut or mutated plurals - the vowel changes in the plural version.	<i>Foot/feet; goose, geese; tooth/teeth; crisis/crises; woman/women; man/men.</i>
Irregular plurals from Latin and Greek - nouns not Anglicised	<i>Medium/media; radius/radii; phenomenon/phenomena; fungus/fungi.</i>
Irregular plurals from French - nouns not Anglicised	<i>Beau/beaux; bureau/bureaux; chateau/chateaux; tableau/tableaux.</i>
Plurals of compound nouns - several types, as demonstrated in examples.	<i>Attorney general/attorneys general; passerby/passersby; grown-up/grown-ups; major general/major generals; has-been/has-beens toothbrush/toothbrushes.</i>

You are now ready to venture into the interesting world of plural words without s on the end. Enjoy the journey!

butter



Butter is made by churning cream until the fat separates from the buttermilk.

Yak butter is a valuable food in Tibet, Mongolia and Nepal.

buffalo



Buffalo have sparse grey-black coats and spend much of their day in water.




A buffalo has widely splayed feet to enable it to walk in mud without sinking.




cacti






Cacti * are succulents that grow in dry places. The stems store moisture, while the 'leaves' are the sharp spines. Cacti often flower at night to attract moths and other nocturnal insects.

* Pron. *kack-tie* to rhyme with *rye*.

<p>cannon</p>		<p>The earliest cannon were in use in the 3BC. Cannon fire caused over 75% of casualties in WWI. Howitzers are a type of cannon used in more modern warfare.</p>
<p>cardboard</p>		<p>Cardboard cartons and boxes are used for storing and transporting goods. Cardboard is made from plant cellulose harvested from woodchip pulp.</p>
<p>carp</p>		<p>Wild carp are considered to be a pest in some countries because they carry diseases that infect native fish. Carp can live up to 20 years and often grow to an enormous size. Ornamental carp are called Koi in Japan.</p>

<p>electricity</p>	 <p>Michael Faraday</p>	<p>Electricity is a source of energy without which the modern world would come to a standstill.</p> <p>Englishman Michael Faraday (1791-1867) discovered how electricity could be made by moving a magnet in a wire coil. He also invented the electric motor, the generator and the transformer. His life's achievements are well worth researching.</p>
<p>equipment</p>		<p>Most heavy equipment is made or partly made from steel. The manufacturing, building and transport industries are major users of heavy equipment.</p>
<p>fauna</p>		<p>The word <i>fauna</i> describes animals of a specific region or time and considered to be a group - e.g. fossil fauna.</p> <p>Several groups of fauna are called faunae.</p>

<p>flora</p>		<p>All plants of a region, species or era are collectively called flora. (The plural word <i>florae</i> is rarely used).</p> <p>Flora was the Roman goddess of flowers.</p> <p>Flora is also a girl's name, popular in Scotland.</p>
<p>flour</p>		<p>Flour is made by grinding grain seeds such as wheat or rye.</p> <p>Flour is also be made from corn, rice, barley and oats.</p>
<p>fog</p>		<p>Fog has a visibility of less than 1km. (Also see <i>mist</i>.)</p> <p>For pilots of ships and planes, <i>aviation fog</i> has visibility of less than 1000m, <i>thick fog</i> less than 200m, and <i>dense fog</i> less than 50m.</p>