Plural Rules — Apply the Rule

3 rules cover almost every plural in English. This worksheet gives one practice page per rule from the plural-rules-phonics guide.

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to use this worksheet

1. Read the rule at the top of the page.
2. Read the base word and the ending being added.
3. Write the correctly-spelled plural on the line — for Rule 3, remember to change the y to i first.
4. Check your spelling against the plural-rules-phonics guide once you're done.

Example — this is what a correct answer looks like:

cat + s -> **cats**

Tip

Teach the rules in order — Rule 1 covers most words, so it should feel automatic before Rules 2 and 3 (the exceptions) are introduced.

Rule 1 — Just Add -s

The default rule, covering most words.

cat + s -> _____

dog + s -> _____

book + s -> _____

chair + s -> _____

tree + s -> _____

bird + s -> _____

Rule 2 — Add -es After s, x, z, ch, sh

These endings already hiss or buzz, so English adds a full extra syllable instead of just -s.

box + es -> _____

bus + es -> _____

buzz + es -> _____

church + es -> _____

dish + es -> _____

wish + es -> _____

fox + es -> _____

Rule 3 — Y to IES

When a consonant comes right before the y, change y to i and add -es.

baby + es -> _____

city + es -> _____

puppy + es -> _____

candy + es -> _____

family + es -> _____

pony + es -> _____