

## UNIT 68 Nouns

### A

Some nouns that refer to family members and nouns that indicate a profession have the same form for both the masculine and feminine, for example:

*cousin, dancer, cook, student*

Other nouns that refer to family members, however, have different forms, for example:  
*uncle / aunt, nephew / niece, son / daughter*

Some nouns that indicate a profession end in **-er** or **-or** in the masculine but **-ess** in the feminine:  
*waiter / waitress, manager / manageress, actor / actress*

Certain nouns for jobs that traditionally had different forms for the masculine and feminine (**policeman / police-woman, steward / stewardess...**) or had only masculine forms (**workman, postman...**), nowadays tend to be used in a neutral way as regards to the gender with words such as **officer, worker, operator, assistant, person**.

*police officer, flight assistant, fire officer, factory worker, post person*

### B

The plural of nouns is usually formed by adding **-s** to the singular noun.

*building → buildings*

*cat → cats*

*poem → poems*

*orange → oranges*

Nouns that end in **-s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x** and some that end in **-o (hero, tomato, potato...)** form plural by adding **-es**.

*bus → buses*

*kiss → kisses*

*dish → dishes*

*watch → watches*

*box → boxes*

*hero → heroes*

Other nouns that end in **-o**, usually abbreviated words or words of a foreign origin, only add **-s**.

*radio → radios*

*zoo → zoos*

*photo → photos*

*video → videos*

*kilo → kilos*

*disco → discos*

Nouns that end in a **-y**, preceded by a consonant have the plural **-ies**.

*city → cities*

*story → stories*

*baby → babies*

BUT: *toys, rays, keys...* (only **-s**, because the **y** is preceded by a vowel)

Nouns that consist of abbreviations normally form the plural by adding **-s**.

*CDs, DVDs, DJs, VJs, MPs...*

### C

The pronunciation of the **-s** depends on the final sound of the word.

- After the sounds /k/, /f/, /p/, /t/ is pronounced /s/: *books, puffs, steps, pets...*
- After the sounds /b/, /d/, /g/, /v/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/ and vowel sounds, it is pronounced /z/: *cabs, rods, bags, dolls, stems, cones, beginnings, boys...*
- **-es** after the sounds /tʃ/, /s/, /ʃ/, /z/ is pronounced /ɪz/: *matches, faxes, bushes, gases...*

Student's notes .....

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**EXERCISES**  
Nouns UNIT 68

NAME: student code      DATE:  / /

LEVEL: CEFR L      TIME:  -

**68.1 Write these masculine nouns and feminine nouns in the correct column.**

<del>steward</del>	heir	actor	duchess	<del>stewardess</del>	duke	heiress	Spokesman
aunt	bride	actress	widower	spokeswoman	widow	uncle	groom

	Masculine	Feminine	Translation
1	.....	.....	.....
2	.....	.....	.....
3	.....	.....	.....
4	.....	.....	.....
5	.....	.....	.....
6	.....	.....	.....
7	.....	.....	.....
8	.....	.....	.....

**68.2 Write the plural of these nouns in the correct column.**

<del>ticket</del>	country	actress	concert	ferry	pound	beach	
bush	party	church	advert	cinema	lady	fax	fairy

-s	-es	-ies
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

**68.3 Write the plural of these nouns that end in -o. Add -s or -es.**

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1 video .....  | 6 zoo .....     |
| 2 tomato ..... | 7 Eskimo .....  |
| 3 echo .....   | 8 logo .....    |
| 4 hero .....   | 9 volcano ..... |
| 5 photo .....  | 10 potato ..... |

**68.4 Write the plural of these nouns in the correct column, depending on how they are pronounced.**

<del>book</del>	wish	theatre	piano	student	performance	shop	dance	painting	poet	stage	novel
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/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....

**Teacher's observations**