



**COUNTABLE NOUNS**  
**PP. 55-58 & 62-64**

# Countable nouns, pp. 55-58

- **Countable nouns** have both **the singular and the plural form**.  
*One student, two students, seventy students...*
- **Most nouns** form the plural by **adding -S**: *teams, hurricanes, applications...*
- **Some nouns** undergo **additional changes** apart from adding -s and some plural nouns **do not add -S at all**. We'll call them **special cases**.
- On **pp. 55-57**, you'll find additional examples for these nouns.

# Nouns ending in -O

## ◆ Nouns ending in -O:

- **+ -ES**      heroes, echoes
  - **+ -S**        photos, radios, logos
  - **both**        volcanoes/volcanos
- There are **no rules** – you should check the plural form for each noun.

# Nouns ending in -Y

## ◆ Nouns ending in -Y:

- If the noun ends in a **consonant (suglasnik) + Y**, **Y changes to I** and **we add -ES**:  
*duty > duties*
- If the noun ends in a **vowel (samoglasnik) + Y**, it simply **takes -S**:  
*day > days*

# Nouns ending in -F, -FE, -FF

## ◆ Nouns ending in -F, -FE, -FF:

- Some nouns **change the F to V** and **add -S or -ES** (you can find all of the nouns in this group on **p. 55**):  
*life > lives, thief > thieves, wife, knife, self, shelf, etc.*
- **Most other nouns** simply **take -S**:  
*cliff > cliffs, chief > chiefs, roof, etc.*
- Some nouns can form the plural in **both ways**:  
*scarf > scarves/scarfs*

# Compound nouns (složenice)

## ◆ Compound nouns with TWO words:

- If the compound noun contains **another noun**, **this noun adds -S**:

*passer-by* (prolaznik) > *passers-by*

- if it doesn't contain a noun, **the second word** takes -S:

*grown-up* (odrasla osoba) > *grown-ups*

- **Note:** It is sometimes difficult for students to tell if a word is a noun or not, but you will only be tested on examples from a) and b) on p. 56, so there won't be any surprises.

# Compound nouns (složenice)

## ◆ Compound nouns with **THREE** words:

- Compound nouns with three words usually **add -S to the last word:**

*five-year-old > five-year-olds*

- But if they contain **two nouns** separated by a **preposition**, we usually **add -S to the first noun:**

*mother-in-law > mothers-in-law*

# Nouns ending in -ON

## ◆ Nouns ending in -ON:

- -ON changes to -A in the plural

*phenomenon* (pojava!, fenomen) > *phenomena*  
*criterion* (kriterijum) > *criteria*

Sociologists study social phenomena.  
(Sociolozi proučavaju društvene pojave.)

# Nouns ending in -IS

## ◆ Nouns ending in -IS:

- **-IS changes to -ES** in the plural (be careful: we do **not** simply add -ES)
- *crisis* (kriza) > *crises*, *basis* (osnova) > *bases*, *thesis* (teza) > *theses*, *hypothesis* (hipoteza, pretpostavka) > *hypotheses*, *diagnosis* (dijagnoza) > *diagnoses*, *nemesis* (smrtni neprijatelj, nešto kobno po nas, što nam donosi propast) > *nemeses*, *oasis* (oaza) > *oases*, etc.
- The **pronunciation** of both of these forms can be **very tricky!**  
*crisis* /krajsis/ > *crises* /krajsi:z/  
Check a **learner's dictionary** to hear the pronunciation and practice the pronunciation of both forms (e.g. for *crisis* and *crises*, see [https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/crisis\\_1?q=crisis](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/crisis_1?q=crisis))

# Special cases

## ◆ **Special cases:**

*child > children*

*man > men*

*woman > women* (check a learner's dictionary for the pronunciation!)

*foot > feet, tooth > teeth, etc.*

## ◆ **Many compound nouns containing '-man' or '-woman' form the plural in the same way:**

*policeman > policemen*

*congresswoman > congresswomen*

# Dozen, hundred, million...

◆ **Words such as *dozen* (= twelve), *hundred*, *million*, *billion*, etc. form the plural in two ways:**

- If they are used with **a number** or an expression such as **'a few'** or **'several'**, we **do not** add -S:

*Belgrade had two million inhabitants.*

*The ticket costs a few/several hundred euros.*

- If we **don't know the exact number**, we add -S:

*Hundreds/Thousands of people have lost their homes.*

(na stotine, na hiljade!)

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# Countable nouns with ONE form

- ◆ Finally, there are some nouns that are **countable** (meaning that they have **both a singular and a plural form/meaning**), but their singular and plural forms are **identical**.
- ◆ It is very important to **differentiate** between these nouns and **uncountable** nouns, **singular-only** and **plural-only** nouns, which **only have one form (meaning)** because the way they can be used is completely different. We'll deal with uncountable nouns next week.

# Countable nouns with ONE form

## ◆ Nouns whose singular form is the same as their plural form:

- *series* (niz, serija) > *series* (nizovi, serije), *means* (sredstvo) > *means* (sredstva), *barracks* (kasarna/kasarne), *species* (vrsta/vrste), *headquarters* (sedište/štab)\*

*This is a rare animal species.* (jedna vrsta)

*Three species of monkeys **live** in this area.* (tri vrste)

- *craft* (letelica ili brod\*) > *craft* (letelice ili brodovi), *aircraft* (letelica) > *aircraft*, *spacecraft*, *deer*, etc.

*The aircraft **was** flown by an experienced pilot.* (letelica)

*The aircraft **were** flown by experienced pilots.* (letelice)

\*In other meanings, *craft* can have the plural form, e.g. *arts and crafts*.

# Verbs, nouns and determiners

*The crisis **is** more intense in southern parts of the country.*

***These** phenomena **are** relatively unexplored.*

***This** **is** a rare animal species.*

*The aircraft **were** flown by experienced pilots.*

When we use any of the nouns discussed above, we should use **other words that refer to the noun** (e.g. *is, are, has, were, this, those, it*) in the singular or plural form **depending on** whether the noun **is used** as a singular or plural noun in the sentence – we look at **their form and meaning** in context.

- **\*Headquarters is an exception:** *The headquarters of this company **is/are** located in Madrid. (you can usually use both a singular and a plural verb)*