

# IELTS Narayanganj

## Singular and plural nouns

### Regular nouns

Most singular nouns form the plural by adding **-s**.

#### Examples

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| boat     | boats  |
| house    | houses |

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| cat      | cats   |
| river    | rivers |

A singular noun ending in **s, x, z, ch, sh** makes the plural by adding **-es**.

#### Examples

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| bus      | buses  |
| wish     | wishes |

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| pitch    | itches |
| box      | boxes  |

A singular noun ending in a consonant and then **y** makes the plural by dropping the y and adding **-ies**.

#### Examples

| Singular | Plural  |
|----------|---------|
| penny    | pennies |
| spy      | spies   |

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| baby     | babies |
| city     | cities |

| Singular | Plural  |
|----------|---------|
| daisy    | daisies |

### Irregular nouns

There are some irregular noun plurals. The most common ones are listed below.

#### Examples

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| woman    | women  |

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| man      | men    |

| Singular | Plural   |
|----------|----------|
| child    | children |

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| tooth    | teeth  |
| foot     | feet   |
| person   | people |
| leaf     | leaves |
| mouse    | mice   |
| goose    | geese  |
| half     | halves |
| knife    | knives |
| wife     | wives  |

| Singular | Plural   |
|----------|----------|
| life     | lives    |
| elf      | elves    |
| loaf     | loaves   |
| potato   | potatoes |
| tomato   | tomatoes |
| cactus   | cacti    |
| focus    | foci     |
| fungus   | fungi    |
| nucleus  | nuclei   |

| Singular   | Plural             |
|------------|--------------------|
| syllabus   | syllabi/syllabuses |
| analysis   | analyses           |
| diagnosis  | diagnoses          |
| oasis      | oases              |
| thesis     | theses             |
| crisis     | crises             |
| phenomenon | phenomena          |
| criterion  | criteria           |
| datum      | data               |

Some nouns have the same form in the singular and the plural.

### Examples

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| sheep    | sheep  |
| fish     | fish   |

| Singular | Plural  |
|----------|---------|
| deer     | deer    |
| species  | species |

| Singular | Plural   |
|----------|----------|
| aircraft | aircraft |

## Irregular verb/noun agreement

Some nouns have a plural form but take a singular verb.

| Plural nouns used with a singular verb | Sentence                                |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| news                                   | The news is at 6.30 p.m.                |
| athletics                              | Athletics is good for young people.     |
| linguistics                            | Linguistics is the study of language.   |
| darts                                  | Darts is a popular game in England.     |
| billiards                              | Billiards is played all over the world. |

Some nouns have a fixed plural form and take a plural verb. They are not used in the singular, or they have a different meaning in the singular. Nouns like this include: *trousers, jeans, glasses, savings, thanks, steps, stairs, customs, congratulations, tropics, wages, spectacles, outskirts, goods, wits*

| Plural noun with plural verb | Sentence                   |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| trousers                     | My trousers are too tight. |
| jeans                        | Her jeans are black.       |
| glasses                      | Those glasses are his.     |