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## What is the plural form of half

Contenido Adjectives and adverbs Adjectives Adverbs Adverbs Adverbs Adverbs Adverbs Adverbs and adverb phrases: typical errors Adverbs: functions Adverbs and adverbs adverbs and adverbs and adverbs adverbs adverbs and adverbs adverbs and adverbs adverbs adverbs and adverbs adverbs and adverbs adve responses (definitely, certainly) Using adjectives and adverbs Easily confused words Above or over? Allow, permit or let? Allow, per Although or though? Altogether or all together? Amount of, number of or quantity of? Any more or anymore? Anyone, anybody or anything? Apart from or except for? Arise or rise? Around or round? Arouse or rouse? As or like? As, because or since? As, when or while? Been or gone? Begin or start? Beside or besides? Between or among? Born or effective? Elder, eldest or older, oldest? End or finish? Especially or specially? Except or except for? Expect, hope or wait? Experience or experiment? Fall or felt? Female or feminine; male or masculine? Finally, at last, lastly or in the end? First, firstly or at first? Fit or suit? Following or the following? For or since? Forget or leave? Full or filled? Fun or funny? Get or go? Grateful or thankful? Hear or listen (to)? High or tall? Historic or historical? House or home? How is ...? or What is ... like? If or whether? Ill or sick? Imply or infer? In the way? It's or its? Late or lately? Lay or lie? Lend or borrow? Less or fewer? Look at, see or watch? No doubt or without doubt? No or not? Nowadays, these days or today? Open or opened? Opportunity or possibility? Opposite or in front of? Other, others, the other or another? Out or out of? Permit or permission? Person, persons or people? Pick or pick up? Play or game? Politics, political, politician or policy? Price or prize? Principal or principal? So that or in order that? Sometimes or sometime? Sound or noise? Speak or talk? Such or so? There, their or they're? Towards or toward? Wait or wait for? Wake, wake up or awaken? Worth or worthwhile? Nouns, pronouns and determiners Determiners Determiners Nouns Pronouns and determiners Determiners Nouns, pronouns and determiners Determiners Nouns, pronouns and determiners Determiners Nouns, pronouns and determiners Nouns, prono nowhere One One and one's Pronouns: personal (I, me, you, him, it, they, etc.) Pronouns: possessive (my, mine, your, yours, etc.) Pronouns: note finite (-body, -one, -thing, -where) Pronouns: personal (I, me, your, we, they Relative pronouns: indefinite (-body, -one, -thing, -where) Pronouns: personal (I, me, your, we, they Relative pronouns: personal (I, me, y something, somewhere That Quantifiers A bit All Any Both Either Enough Least, the least, at least Less Little, a little, few, a few Lots, a lot, plenty Some Some and any Question words How What When Where Which Who, whom Whose Why Using nouns Prepositions and particles Using English Collocation Functions Numbers Dates Measurements Number Time People and places Place and movement Abroad Away and away from Back Inside Verbs Tenses and time Verb forms Verb patterns Phrasal verbs and multi-word verbs Passive voice Modal verbs and modality Conditionals and wishes Using verbs Table of irregular verbs Words, sentences and clauses Word formation Word order and focus Conjunctions and linking words Clauses and sentences Relative clauses Negation Negation Neither, neither ... nor and not ... either Not Neither nor and not ... either Not Forming negative statements, questions and imperatives Negation in non-finite clauses Negative prefixes and suffixes Negative adverbs: hardly, seldom, etc. Negation: emphasising Negation of think, believe, suppose, hope Questions How English plurals are formed; typically -(e)s Part of a series on English grammar Morphology Plurals Prefixes (in English Suffixes (frequentative) Word types Acronyms Adjectives adverbs (flat) Articles Conjunctions Compounds Demonstratives Determiners (List here) Expletives Intensifier Interjections Interrogatives Nouns Portmanteaux Possessives English prepositions (List here) Pronouns (case · person) Verbs Verbs Auxiliary verbs Modal verbs Passive voice Phrasal verbs Verb usage Transitive and intransitive and intransitive verbs Ve verbs SyntaxClauses (in English)Conditional sentencesCopulaDo-supportInversionPeriphrasis Zero-marking OrthographyAbbreviationsCapitalizationCommaHyphen Variant usageAfrican-American Vernacular EnglishAmE and BrE grammatical differencesDouble negativesGrammar disputesThou vte This article contains phonetic transcriptions in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see Help:IPA. For the distinction between [], // and (), see IPA § Brackets and transcription delimiters. English nouns are inflected for grammatical number, meaning that, if they are of the countable type, they generally have different forms for singular and plural. This article discusses the variety of ways in which English plural nouns are formed from the corresponding singular forms, as well as various issues concerning the usage of singulars and plurals in English. For plurals of pronouns, see English personal pronouns. Phonological transcriptions provided in this article are for Received Pronunciation and General American. For more information, see English phonology. Form Regular plurals The plural morpheme in English plurals fall into three classes, depending upon the sound that ends the singular form: Any sibilant In English, there are six sibilant consonants, namely /s z ʃ ʒ tʃ dʒ/ Where a singular noun ends in a sibilant sound, the plural is formed by adding /ɪz/ or /əz/ (in some transcription systems, this is abbreviated as /ɨz/). The spelling adds -es, or -s if the singular already ends in -e: kiss kisses /ˈkɪsɨz/ phase phases /ˈfeɪzɨz/ dish dishes /ˈdɪʃɨz/ massage massages /məˈsɑːʒɨz/ or /ˈmæsɑːʒɨz/ or /ˈmæsɑːʒɨz/ witch witches /ˈwɪtʃɨz/ judge judges / dgAdgIZ/ Other voiceless consonants In most English varieties, there are five non-sibilant voiceless consonants that occur at the end of words, namely /p t k f  $\theta$ /; some varieties also have /x/. When the singular form ends in a voiceless consonant other than a sibilant, the plural is normally formed by adding /s/ (a voiceless sibilant). The spelling adds -s: lap laps /læps/ cat cats /kæts/ clock clocks /klpks/ cuff cuffs /kʌfs/ death deaths /dɛθs/ loch lochs /lpxs/ or /lpks/ Some that end in /f/ or /θ/, however, are "near-regular." See section below. Other voiced phonemes For a singular noun ending on a non-sibilant voiced consonant, the plural adds /z/ (a voiced sibilant) and the spelling adds -s: girl girls /g3:rlz/ chair chairs /tʃɛərz/ In English, all vowels are voiced. Nouns ending in a vowel sound similarly add /z/ to form the plural. The spelling usually adds -s, but certain instances (detailed below) may add -es instead: boy boys /bɔɪz/ Plurals of nouns in -o preceded by a consonant Singular nouns ending in o preceded by a consonant in many cases spell the plural by adding -es (pronounced /z/): hero heroes /'hɪɹoʊz/, /'hiɹoʊz/ or /'pə'teɪtəʊz/ volcano volcanoes or volcanos /val'keɪnəʊz/ however many nouns of foreign origin, including almost all Italian loanwords, add only -s: canto cantos hetero heteros photo photos zero zeros (or zeroes) piano pianos portico porticos pro pros quarto (paper size) quartos kimono kimonos Plurals of nouns in -y Nouns ending in a vocalic y (that is, used as a vowel) preceded by a consonant usually drop the y and add -ies (pronounced /iz/, or /aiz/ in words where the y is pronounced /ai/): cherry cherries /ˈt͡ʃɛɹiz/ lady ladies /ˈleɪdiz/ sky skies /skaɪz/ Words ending in quy also follow this pattern, since in English qu is a digraph for two consonant sounds (/kw/) or sometimes one (/k/): soliloquy soliloquies /sə'lɪləkwiz/ However, proper nouns (particularly names of people) of this type usually form their plurals by simply adding -s:[1][2] the two Kennedys, there are three Harrys in our office. With place names this rule is not always adhered to: Sicilies are the standard plurals of Sicily and Scilly, while Germanys and Germanies are both used.[3] Nor does the rule apply to words that are merely capitalized common nouns: P&O Ferries (from ferry). Other exceptions include lay-bys and stand-bys. Words ending in a y preceded by a vowel form their plurals by adding -s: day days /'deiz/ monkey monkeys /'mʌŋkiz/ However the plural form (rarely used) of money is usually monies, although the former is more common. Plurals of nouns in -i Nouns written with -i usually have plurals in -is but some in -ies are also found. alibi alibis /ˈæl.ə.baɪz/ bikini bikinis /bɪˈkiːniz/ Israeli Israelis /ɪzˈɹeɪliz/ chili or chillis, chilies /ˈt͡ʃliz/ alkali alkalies /ˈæl.kə.laɪz/ Near-regular plurals In Old and Middle English, voiceless fricatives /t/ and /θ/ mutated to voiced fricatives /v/ and /ð/ respectively before a voiced ending.[5] In some words this voicing survives in the modern English plural. In the case of /f/ changing to /v/, the mutation is indicated in the orthography as well; also, a silent e is added in this case if the singular does not already end with -e: bath baths /ba:ðz/, /bæðz/ mouth[a 1] mouths /mavðz/ calf calves /ka:vz/, /kævz/ leaf[a 2] leaves /li:vz/ knife[a 1] knives /navz/ life lives /lavz/ In addition, there is one word where /s/ is voiced in the plural:[5] house houses[a 1] /haσzɨz/ Many nouns ending in /f/ or /θ/ (including all words where /f/ is represented orthographically by gh or ph) nevertheless retain the voiceless consonant: moth moths (voiced /mpŏz/ is rare but does occur in New England and Canada)[citation needed] proof proofs Some can do either: dwarf[a 3] dwarfs/dwarves hoof hoofs/hooves elf elfs/elves roof roofs (commonly voiced as /xu:vz/ to rhyme with hooves, but rooves is a rare archaic spelling) staff[a 4] staffs/staves turf turfs/turves (latter rare) Irregular plurals There are many other less regular ways of forming plurals, usually stemming from older forms of
English or from foreign borrowings. Nouns with identical singular and plural Some nouns have identical singular and plural (zero inflection). Many of these are the names of animals: bison buffalo (or buffaloes) carp cod deer (and all species in the deer family such as moose and elk) fish (or fishes) kakapo (and other Māori-derived words) neat pike salmon sheep shrimp or shrimps (British) squid trout As a general rule, game or other animals are often referred to in the singular for the plural in a sporting context: "He shot six brace of pheasant", "Carruthers bagged a dozen tiger last year", whereas in another context such as zoology or tourism the regular plural would be used. Eric Partridge refers to these sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms as "snob plurals" and conjectures that they may have developed by analogy with the common English irregular plural is usually sporting the common English irregular plural is usually sporting terms are sporting to the common English irregular plural is usually sporting to the common English irregular plural is usually sporting the common English irregular plural is u identical to the singular, although fishes is sometimes used, especially when meaning "species of fish". Fishes is also used in iconic contexts, such as the Bible story of the loaves and fishes, or the reference in The Godfather, "Luca Brasi sleeps with the fishes." Other nouns that have identical singular and plural forms include: aircraft; watercraft; spacecraft; hovercraft; ocean-going craft (But in the sense of a skill or art, the plural is regular, crafts.) the blues musical style: "play me a blues"; "he sang three blues and a calypso") cannon (sometimes cannons) ("Cannons" is more common in North America and Australia, while "cannon" as plural is more common in the United Kingdom.) chassis (Only the spelling is identical; the singular is pronounced /(t)sesi/ while the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in the plural is /(t)sesi/.) counsel (in the meaning of lawyer)[7] head (referring, in irides is used) series, species (and other words in -ies, from the Latin fifth declension) [The word specie refers only to money, coins, from the Latin ablative singular form.] stone—as a unit of weight equal to 14 pounds (occasionally stones) Many names for Native American peoples are not inflected in the plural: Cherokee Cree Comanche Delaware Hopi Iroquois Kiowa Navajo Ojibwa Sioux Zuni Exceptions include Algonquins, Apaches, Aztecs, Chippewas, Hurons, Incas, Mohawks, Oneidas, and Seminoles. English sometimes distinguishes between regular plural forms of demonyms/ethnonyms (e.g. "five Dutchmen", "several Irishmen"), and uncountable plurals used to refer to entire nationalities collectively (e.g. "the Dutch", "the Irish"). Certain other words borrowed from foreign languages such as Japanese and Māori are "correctly" not inflected in the plurals of a few nouns are formed from the singular by adding -n or -en, stemming from the Old English weak declension. Only the following three are commonly found: ox oxen (particularly when referring to a team of draft (draught) animals, sometimes oxes in nonstandard American English) child children (only possible plural; originated as a double plural, with -en added to Old English plural cildra/cildru, which also led to the archaic plural of brother meaning a male sibling, but often seen as plural of brother meaning a member of a religious congregation or fraternal organization; [8] originated as a double plural, with -en added to Early Middle English brother) As noted, the word "children" comes from an earlier form "childer". There were formerly a few other words like this: eyre/eyren (eggs), lamber/lambren (lambs), and calver/calveren (calves). The following -(e)n plurals are found in dialectal, rare, or archaic usage: bee been (dialectal, Ireland) cow kine (archaic/regional; actually earlier plural "kye" [cf. Scots "kye"—"cows"] plus -en suffix, forming a double plural) eye eyen (rare/dialectal, used by Rudyard Kipling in Puck of Pook's Hill) hose hosen (rare/archaic, used in King James Version of the Bible) knee kneen (archaic/obsolete) tree treen (archaic/obsolete, used by William Browne) aurochs aurochsen (alternative plural, also aurochsen (alternative plural, also aurochsen (archaic/obsolete, used by William Browne) aurochsen (alternative plural, also aurochsen (archaic/obsolete, used by William Browne) aurochsen (alternative plural, also aurochsen (alternative plural). particularly if operating as a cluster, but multiple Unix systems are usually Unices along the Latin model.[9] Apophonic plurals The plural is sometimes called mutated plurals): foot feet goose geese louse lice dormouse dormice man men mouse mice (computer mouse can also take the regular plural form mouses[citation needed]) tooth teeth woman women /'wimin/ This group consists of words that historically belong to the Old English consonant declension, see Germanic umlaut § I-mutation in Old English. There are many compounds of man and woman that form their plurals in the same way: postmen, policewomen, etc. The plural of mongoose is mongooses. Mongeese is a back-formation by mistaken analogy to goose / geese and is often used in a jocular context. The form meese is sometimes also used humorously as the plural of moose—normally moose or mooses—or even of mouse. Miscellaneous irregular plurals Some words have irregular plurals that do not fit any of the types given here. person—people (also persons, in more formal - legal and technical - contexts; people can also be a singular noun with plural peoples.) die—dice (in the context of gaming, where dice is also often used as the singular; and also in the semiconductor industry. Otherwise dies is used.) penny—pence (in the context of an amount of money in Britain). The 1 p or 1-cent coins are called pennies. Pence is abbreviated p (also in speech, as "pee"). For 10 pences see § Headless nouns below. Irregular plurals from foreign languages Irregular plurals from foreign languages Irregular plurals from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English has borrowed a great many words from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English has borrowed a great many words from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English has borrowed a great many words from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English has borrowed a great many words from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English
has borrowed a great many words from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English has borrowed a great many words from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English has borrowed a great many words from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English has borrowed a great many words from Latin and Greek See also: Plural form of words ending in -us English has borrowed a great many words from English has borrowed a great many words fr Classical Latin and Classical Greek. Classical Greek. Classical Greek. Classical Latin has a very complex system of endings in which there are five categories or declensions of nouns, adjectives, and pronouns (some with sub-categories). Usually, in borrowing words from Latin, the endings of the nominative are used: nouns whose nominative singular ends in -a (first declension) have plurals in -ae (anima, animae); nouns whose nominative singular ends in -m (second declension neuter) have plurals in -a (stadium, stadia; datum, data). (For a full treatment, see Latin declensions.) Sometimes forms other than the nominative are seen: in partibus infidelibus ("in the lands of the heathens"), which is the plural dative (indirect object, approximately). Classical Greek had a simpler system, but still more complicated than that of English. Note that most loan words from Greek in English are from Attic Greek, the Athenian Greek of Plato, Aristotle, and other "great" writers), not Demotic Greek, Koine (Biblical) Greek, or Modern Greek of Plato, Aristotle, and other "great" writers), not Demotic Greek, Koine (Biblical) Greek, or Modern Greek of Plato, Aristotle, and other "great" writers), not Demotic Greek, Koine (Biblical) Greek, and other "great" writers), not Demotic Greek of Plato, Aristotle, and other "great" writers), not Demotic Greek of Plato, Aristotle, and other "great" writers), not Demotic Greek, Koine (Biblical) Greek, This is because Attic Greek is what is taught in classes in Greek in Western Europe, and therefore was the Greek that the word borrowers knew. Anglicisation or naturalisation, that is, the re-formation of the word and its inflections as normal English words. Many nouns have settled on, or acquired a modern form from the original (usually Latin). Other nouns have become Anglicised, taking on the normal "s" ending. In some cases, both forms are still competing. The choice of a form can often depend on context: for a scholar, the plural of appendix is a or radar engineer works with antennas, but an entomologist deals with antennae. The choice of form can also depend on the level of discourse: traditional Latin plurals are found more often in academic and scientific contexts, whereas in daily speech the Anglicised forms are more common. In the following table, the Latin plurals are listed, together with the Anglicised forms when these are more common. Different paradigms of Latin pronunciation can lead to confusion as to the number or gender of the noun in question. As traditionally used in English, including scientific, medical, and legal contexts, Latin nouns retain the classical inflection with regard to spelling; however those inflections use an Anglicised pronunciation: the entomologist pronounces antennae as /æn'tɛni/. This may cause confusion for those familiar with the Classical Latin pronunciation for the Classical Latin pro pronunciation. Because many of these plurals do not end in -s, some of them have been reinterpreted as singular forms: particularly the words datum and medium (as in a "medium of communication"), where the original plurals data shows us that ..." (although a number of scientists, especially of British origin, still say "These data show us that ..."). See below for more information. Similarly, words such as criteria and phenomena are used as singular by some speakers, although this is still considered incorrect in standard usage (see below). Final a becomes -ae (also -æ[citation needed]), or just adds -s: alumna alumnae antenna antennae formula formulae/formulas encyclopædiae are rare) Scientific abbreviations for words of Latin origin ending in -a, such as SN for supernova, can form a plural by adding -e, as SNe for supernovae. Final ex or ix becomes -ices (pronounced /isi:z/), or just adds -es: index indices /'meɪtrɪsi:z/ reisis crises /'kraɪsi:z/ reisis crises /'kraɪsi:z/ testis testes /'tɛsti:z/ thesis theses /'θi:si:z/ parenthesis parentheses /pəˈrɛnθəsiːz/ except for words derived from Greek polis, which become poleis (pronounced /iːs/ or /iːz/): acropolis acropoleis /æˈkropoliːs/ (Some of these are Greek rather than Latin words, but the method of plural formation in English is the same.) Some people treat process as if it belonged to this class, pronouncing processes /ˈprɒsɪsiːz/ instead of standard /'prɒsɛsɨz/. Since the word comes from Latin processus, whose plural in the fourth declension is processus with a long u, this pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie, is pronounced differently from axes (/'æksɨz/), the plural of axie Specie for a singular of species is considered nonstandard. It is standard meaning the form of money, where it derives from the Latin singular ablative in the phrase in specie. Final um becomes -a, or just adds -s: addendum addenda/addendums agendum (obsolete, not listed in most dictionaries) agenda means a "list of items of business at a meeting" and has the plural agendas. corrigendum corrigenda curriculums datum data (Now usually treated as a singular mass noun in both informal and educated usage, but usage in scientific publications shows a strong American/British divide. American usage generally prefers to treat data as a singular in all contexts, including in serious and academic publishing. [10][11][12] British usage now widely accepts treating data as a plural. [16] Some British university style guides recommend using data for both the singular and the plural use[17] and some recommend treating it only as a singular in connection with computers.[18])In engineering, drafting, surveying, and geodesy, and in weight and balance calculations for aircraft, a datum (plural datums or data) is a reference point, surface, or axis on an object or the Earth's surface against which measurements are made. forum fora/forums (fora is rare and might only be used to refer to more than one original Roman forum.) medium media (in communication systems and digital computers. This is now often treated as a singular mass noun.); medium size) memorandum memorandu millennia/millenniums ovum ova referendum referendum is often taken to mean plebiscites, and referendum referendum si incorrect because it is a Latin gerund, which did not have a plural form, while the "propositions voted on" is more like a gerundive, which could be pluralised. spectrum spectra (as in power spectrum in electrical engineering) stadium stadia/stadiums (the latter is far more common) stratum strata Final us becomes -i (second declension, [aɪ]) or -era or -ora (third declension), or just adds -es (especially for fourth declension), or just adds -es (especially for fourth declension) stratum strata Final us becomes -i (second declension), or just adds -es (especially for fourth declension). many people avoid either choice with cactus as both singular and plural.)[citation needed] campus campuses (The Latinate plural form campuses is universally accepted.)[citation needed] corpus corpora/corpuses census census census focus foci/focuses fungus fungi genus genera hippopotamus et is not a Latin noun of the second declension, but rather a Latinized form of Greek ὀκτώπους [oktṓpous, "eight-foot"]. The theoretically correct form octopodes is rarely used.) platypuses (same as octopus: platypuses (same as octopus: platypuses (same as octopus: platypuses) prospectus prospectus prospectus prospectus is rare although correct in Latin) radius radii succubus succubi (The word omnibus is similar in differentiate it from the singular short ŭ): meatus meatus (but usually meatuses) status et atus (but usually meatuses) colloquial usages based in a humorous fashion on the second declension include Elvii (better Latin would be Elvēs or Elvidēs) to
refer to multiple Elvis impersonators and Loti, used by petrolheads to refer to Lotus automobiles in the plural. Some Greek plurals are preserved in English (cf. Plurals of words of Greek origin): Final on becomes -a: automaton automata/automatons criterion criteria/criterions (the latter form is rare) phenomenon phenomenon phenomenons (the latter form is common, though sometimes proscribed) polyhedron polyhedra/polyhedrons Final as in one case changes to -antes: Atlas Atlantes (statues of the Titan); but atlas at lases (map collections) Final ma in nouns of Greek origin can become -mata, although -s is usually also acceptable, and in many cases more common. stigma stigmata/stigmas stoma stomata/stomas schema schemata/schemas pronounced /z/: beau beaux or beaus bureau bureaux or bureaux or bureaux or châteaux or châteaux or châteaux or milieux o especially when the user is addressing an audience familiar with the language. In such cases, the conventionally formed English plural may sound awkward or be confusing. Nouns of Slavic origin add -a or -i according to native rules, or just -s: kniazhestvo k origin add -im or -ot (generally m/f) according to native rules, or just -s: cherub cherubim / cherubs seraphim". The form "seraphims" occurs in the King James Version.) matzah matzot / matzahs kibbutz kibbutzim / kibbutzes Ot is pronounced os (with unvoiced s) in the Ashkenazi dialect. Many nouns of Japanese origin have no plural form and do not change: bentō bentō otaku otaku samurai samurai other nouns such as kimonos, ninjas, futons, and tsunamis are more often seen with a regular English plural. In New Zealand English, nouns of Māori origin can either take an -s or have no separate plural form. Words more connected to Māori culture and used in that context tend to retain the same form, while names of flora and fauna may or may not take an -s, depending on context. Many regard omission as more correct: kiwi[b 1] kiwi/kiwis kowhai/kowhais Māori[b 2] Māori/(occasionally Māoris) marae marae tui tuis/tui waka waka Notes: ^ When referring to the bird, kiwi may or may not take an -s; when used as an informal term for a New Zealander, it always takes an -s. ^ Māori, when referring to a person of that ethnicity, does not usually take an -s. ^ Māori, when referring to a person of that ethnicity, does not usually take an -s. A maori, when referring to a person of that ethnicity, does not usually take an -s. and related languages spoken by the Inuit in Canada, Greenland and Alaska, retain the original plurals. The word Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuktitut singular Inuk, although recommended by the government of Canada, [20] is in practice rarely used outside Inuit in Canada, Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English, the native Inuit itself almost always keeps the plural form in the singular (in English). inukshuk inukshuit (rare) Iqalummiuq ("inhabitants of Nunavimmiuq Nunavimmiuq Nunavimmiuq Nunavimmiuq Nunavimmiuq Nunavimmiuq Nunavimmiuq ("inhabitants of Nunavimmiuq is cymoedd igloo igloos the Inuktitut plural of Δל iglu is Δα ig Plurals of compound nouns The majority of English compound nouns have one basic term, or head, with which they end. These are nouns and are pluralized in typical fashion: able seamen head bangers lieutenant colonels yellow-dog contracts Some compounds have one head with which they begin. These heads are also nouns and the head usually pluralizes, leaving the second, usually a post-positive adjective, term unchanged: attorney general directors general directors general fee simple absolute fees simple absolute governorgeneral governors-general passerby passersby poet laureate ship of the line son-in-law ministers-president prose aimed at educated people, the forms given above are usually preferred. If a compound can be thought to have two heads, both of them tend to be pluralized when the first head has an irregular plural form: [citation needed] man-child men-child men-chil compounds in which the first head has a standard plural form, however, tend to pluralize only the final head: city-states nurse-practitioner nurse-practitioner nurse-practitioner scholar-poet scholarcompound titles employing it are pluralized at the end: brigadier general brigadier general major general major general sorm, only that term is pluralized: man-about-town men-about-town man-of-war/man-o'-war men-of-war/men-o'-war cat-o'-nine-tails cats-o'-nine-tails woman of the street women of compounds tend to take hyphens when plural in the latter case): ham on rye/ham-on-ryes jack-in-the-box/jack-in head of state heads of states/heads of states/heads of state son of a bitch sons of bitches/sons-of-a-bitch In some extended compounds Constructed around o, only the last term is pluralized (or left unchanged if it is already plural): jack-o'-lantern jac English compounds have been borrowed directly from French, and these generally follow a somewhat different set of rules. In French loaned compounds with a noun as head and a qualifying adjective; agent provocateur agents provocateurs entente cordiale ententes cordiale ententes cordiales fait accompli faits accompliance faits accomp belle époque belles époques / belle époques bon mot bons mots / bon mots bon vivant bons vivants / bon vivants However, if the adjectives beau "beautiful/handsome", nouveau "new", or vieux "old" precede a singular noun beginning with a vowel or a mute h (such as homme), they are changed to bel (as in the example below), nouvel, or vieil (to facilitate pronunciation in French). In these cases, both the noun and the adjective are pluralized in the English form as in French: bel homme beaux hommes In other French compound expressions, only the head noun is pluralized: aide-de-camp aides-de-camp aides-de-camp coup d'état cri du cœur / cri du cœur / cris du cœu culs-de-sac fleur-de-lis fleurs-de-lis fleurs-de-lis fleurs tour de force tours de force but: tête-à-tête (In French the plural form is the same as the plural films noirs, films noir and, most prevalently, film noirs. The form films noir has no basis in either French usage or anglicization of French compounds. The 11th edition of the standard Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (2006) lists the anglicization of French compounds borrowed directly from French, film noir is as the preferred style. Three primary bases may be identified for this:[opinion] Unlike other compounds borrowed directly from French, film noir is as the preferred style. used to refer primarily to English-language cultural artifacts; a typically English-style plural is thus unusually appropriate. Again, unlike other foreign-loaned compounds, film noir refers specifically to the products of popular culture; consequently, popular usage holds more orthographical authority than is usual. English has adopted noir as a standalone adjective in artistic contexts, leading it to serve as the lone head in a variety of compounds (e.g. psycho-noir, sci-fi noir). Plurals of letters and abbreviations The plural of individual letters is usually written with -'s:[22] there are two h's in this sentence; mind your p's and g's; dot the i's and cross the t's. Some
people extend this use of the apostrophe to other cases, such as plurals of numbers written in figures (e.g. "1990's"), words used as terms (e.g. "his writing uses a lot of but's"). However others prefer to avoid this method (which can lead to confusion with the possessive -'s), and write 1990s, buts; this is the style recommended by The Chicago Manual of Style. Likewise, acronyms and initialisms are normally pluralized simply by adding (lowercase) -s, as in MPs, although the apostrophe is sometimes seen. Use of the apostrophe is more common in those cases where the letters are followed by periods (B.A.'s), or where the last letter is S (as in PS's and CAS's, although PSs and CAS's are also acceptable; the ending -es is also sometimes seen). English (like Latin and certain one-letter abbreviations by doubling the letter: p. ("pages"), Pp. ("Popes"), SS. ("Saints"), ss. (or §§) ("sections"), vv. ("volumes"). Some multiletter abbreviations can be treated the same way, by doubling the final letter: MS ("manuscripts"); op. ("opera" as plural of opus). However, often the abbreviation used for the singular is used also as the abbreviation for the plural; this is normal for most units of measurement and currency. The SI unit symbols are officially not considered abbreviations and not pluralized, as in 10 m ("10 metres"). Headless mouns In The Language Instinct, linguist Steven Pinker discusses what he calls "headless words", typically bahuvrihi compounds, such as lowlife and flatfoot, in which life and foot are not heads semantically; that is, a lowlife is not a type of life, and a flatfoot is not a type of foot. When the common form of such a word is singular, it is treated as if it has a regular plural, even if the final constituent of the word is usually pluralized in an irregular fashion. Thus the plural of lowlife is lowlifes, not "lowlives", according to Pinker. Other proposed examples include: sabretooth sabretooths still life still lifes tenderfoot tenderfoots An exception is Blackfoot, of which the plural can be Blackfoot, of which the plural can be Blackfoot First Nations of Canada. Another analogous case is that of sport team names such as the Miami Marlins and Toronto Maple Leafs. For these, see § Teams and their members below. Defective nouns Plurals without singulars Some nouns have no singular form. Such a noun is called a plurale tantum. Examples include cattle, thanks, clothes (originally a plural of cloth). A particular set of nouns, describing things having two parts, comprises the major group of pluralia tantum in modern English: glasses (a pair of spectacles), pants, panties, pantyhose, pliers, scissors, shorts, suspenders, tongs (metalworking & cooking), trousers, etc. These words are interchangeable with a pair of scissors, a pair of trousers, and so forth. In the American fashion industry it is common to refer to a single pair of pants as a pant—though this is a back-formation, the English word (deriving from the French pantalon) was originally singular. In the same field, one half of a pair of scissors separated from the other half is, rather illogically, referred to as a half-scissor. Tweezers used to be part of this group, but tweezer has come into common usage since the second half of the 20th century. Nouns describing things having two parts are expressed in the tiding tidings victual victuals viscus viscera Notes: ^ In medical terminology, a phalanx is any bone of the finger or toe. A military phalanx is pluralized phalanxes. Singular and plural semantics do not apply in the same way. Some examples: Abstract nouns deceit, information, cunning, and nouns derived from adjectives, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, freshness, laziness, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning, such as goodness, and a similar meaning, and nouns which are homonyms of adjectives with a similar meaning of adje goodness and badness), hot, and cold. In the arts and sciences chemistry, geometry, surgery, the blues, [e 1] jazz, rock and roll, impressionism, surrealism. This includes those that look plural but function as grammatically singular in English, e.g., "Mathematics is fun" and "thermodynamics is the science of heat": mathematics (and in British English the shortened form 'maths'), physics, mechanics, dynamics, etc. Chemical elements and other physical entities: aluminum (U.S.), aluminium (U.S.), acoustics, optics, computer graphics, etc. Chemical elements and other physical entities: aluminum (U.S.), acoustics, optics, computer graphics, etc. Chemical elements, furniture, traffic, air and water Notes: ^ Referring to the musical style as a whole. Some mass nouns can be pluralized, but the meaning in this case may change somewhat. For example, when I have two grains of sand, I do not have two sands; I have sand in your pile than in mine, not fewer sands. However, there could be the many "sands of Africa"—either many distinct stretches of sand, or distinct types of sand of interest to geologists or builders, or simply the allusive The Sands of Mars. It is rare to pluralize furniture in this way (though it was formerly more common) and information is never pluralized. There are several isotopes of oxygen, which might be referred to as different oxygens. In casual speech, oxygen might be used as shorthand for "an oxygen atom", but in this case, it is not a mass noun, so one can refer to "multiple oxygens in the same molecule". One would interpret Bob's wisdoms as various pieces of Bob's wisdoms as vari instances of deceitful behaviour (lied on income tax, dated my wife), and the different idlenesses of the worker as plural distinct manifestations of the mass concept of idleness (or as different types of idleness, "bone lazy" versus "no work to do"). The pair specie and species both come from a Latin word meaning "kind", but they do not form a singular plural pair. In Latin, specie is the ablative singular form, while species is the nominative form, while species behaves similarly—as a noun with identical singular and plural. In English, species behaves similarly—as a noun with identical singular and plural. In English, species behaves similarly—as a noun with identical singular and plural. [23] Singulars as plural and plurals as singular Plural words becoming singular Plural in form but singular in construction Certain words, such as news, are strongly and consistently felt as singular by fluent speakers. These words are usually marked in dictionaries with the phrase "plural in form but singular or plural in construction" recognizes variable usage. Plural form became a singular form Some words of foreign origin are much better known in their (foreign-morphology) plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form, and are often not even recognized by English speakers as having plural form as a supplication of the example of the has naturalized the foreign plural as the English singular. Usage of the original singular may be considered pedantic, hypercorrective, or incorrect. [24] In the examples below, the original singular may be considered pedantic, hypercorrective, or incorrect. Original plural/common singular Common plural agendum agenda[f 1] agendas algae algae biscotti biscott paparazzi spaghetti spaghetti spaghetti (mass noun) talib taliban (collective noun) zucchini (U.S. English) zucchinis Magazine was derived from Arabic via French. It was originally plural, but in French and English it is always regarded as singular. Other words whose plurals are sometimes used as singulars include: criterion criteria phenomenon phenomena Notes: ^ An agenda commonly is used to mean a list of agenda. ^ A single piece of data is sometimes referred to as a data point. In engineering, drafting, surveying, and geodesy, and in weight and balance calculations for aircraft, a datum (plural datums or data) is a reference point, surface, or axis on an object or the Earth's surface against which measurements are made. ^ Retained for the opus numbering system for systematical naming musical works by the same composer Back-formation. For example, pease (modern peas) was in origin a singular with plural peasen. However, pease came to be analysed as plural by
analogy, from which a new singular pea was formed; the spelling of pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly, surviving only in the name of the dish pease porridge or pease was also altered accordingly. form reduced to two syllables. Syringe is a back-formation from syringes, itself the plural of syrinx, a musical instrument. Cherry is from Norman French cherise. Phases was once the plural of phasis, but the singular is now phase. The nonstandard, offensive, and now obsolete Chinee and Portugee singulars are back-formations from the standard Chinese and Portuguese. Kudos is a singular Greek word meaning praise, but is often taken to be a plural. At present, however, kudo is considered an error, though the usage is becoming more common[citation needed] as kudos becomes better known. The name of the Greek sandwich style gyros is increasingly undergoing a similar transformation. The term, from Latin, for the main upper arm flexor in the singular is the biceps muscle (from biceps muscle (from biceps muscle of only one arm, by back-formation, as a bicep. The correct—although very seldom used—Latin plural is bicipites. The word sastrugi (hard ridges on deep snow) is of Russian origin and its singular is sastruga; but the imagined Latin-type singular even if they are plural in form, if they are regarded as representing a single entity such as a country: The United States is a country in North America (similarly with the Netherlands, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Nations, etc.). However, if the sense is a group of geographical objects, such as islands or mountains, a plural-form name will be treated as plural. Words such as army, company, crowd, family, fleet, government, majority, mess, number, pack, party and team may refer either to a single entity or the members of the set composing it. If the latter meaning is intended, the word (though singular in form) may be treated as if it were a plural, in that it may take a plural verb and be replaced with a plural pronoun: (in British English) the government are considering their position (alternatively the government is considering its position). See synesis. Thus, as H. W. Fowler describes, in British English they are "treated as singular or plural at discretion"; Fowler notes that occasionally a "delicate distinction" is made possible by discretionary plurals: "The Cabinet is divided is better, because in the order of thought a whole must precede division; and The Cabinet are agreed is better, because it takes two or more to agree."[25] Plurals of numbers The following rules apply to the plurals of numerical terms such as dozen, score, hundred, thousand, million, and similar: When modified by a number, the plural is not inflected, that is, has no -s added. Hence one hundred, two million, four score, etc. (The resulting quantitative expressions are treated as numbers, in that they can modify nouns directly: three dozen eggs, although of is used before pronouns or definite noun phrases: three dozen of them/of those eggs.) When not modified by a number, the plural takes -s as usual, and the resulting expression is not a number (it requires of if modifying a noun): I have hundreds, dozens of complaints, the thousands of people affected. When the modifier is a vaguer expression of number, either pattern may be followed: several hundreds (of people) or several hundreds (of people). When the word has a specific meaning rather than being a simple expression of quantity, it is pluralized as an ordinary noun: Last season he scored eight hundreds [=scores of at least 100 runs in cricket]. The same applies to other numbers: My phone number consists of three fives and four sixes. Note the expressions by the dozen etc. (singular); in threes [=in groups of three] etc. (plural); eight sevens are fifty-six etc. Usage and number agreement Nouns used attributively to qualify other nouns are generally in the singular, even though for example, a dog catcher catches more than one department. This is true even for some binary nouns where the singular form is not found in isolation, such as a trouser mangle or the scissor kick. This is also true where the attribute noun is itself qualified with a number, such as a twenty-dollar bill, a ten-foot pole or a two-man tent. The plural is used for pluralia tantum nouns: a glasses case is for eyeglasses, while a glass case is made of glass (but compare eyeglass case); also an arms race versus arm wrestling. The plural may be used to emphasise the plural is also more common with irregular plurals for various attributions: women killers are women who kill, whereas woman killers are those who kill women. The singular and plural forms of loanwords from other languages where countable nouns used attributively are, unlike English, plural and come at the end of the word are sometimes modified when entering English usage. For example, in Spanish, nouns composed of a verb and its plural object usually have the verb first and noun object last (e.g. the legendary monster chupacabras, literally "sucks-goats", or in a more natural English formation "goatsucker") and the plural form of the compound (i.e. singular el chupacabras, plural los chupacabras). However, when entering English, the final s of chupacabras was treated as a plural of the compound (i.e. the monster) rather than of the worb (i.e. the goats), and so "chupacabra" without an s is the singular in English, even though in Spanish chupacabra could literally be construed as a creature that sucks only one single goat. Teams and their members In the names of sports teams, sometimes a noun will be given a regular plural in -s even though that noun in normal use has an irregular plural form (a particular case of headless nouns as described above). For example, there are teams called the Miami Marlins and the Toronto Maple Leafs, even though that noun in normally has its plural identical to team; for example a player for the Cincinnati Reds may be referred to as a (Cincinnati) Red. This also applies to the St. Louis Blues was originally a singular identical to its plural. When a team's name is plural in form but cannot be singularized by removing an -s, as in Boston Red Sox, the plural is sometimes used as a singular (a player may be referred to as "a Red Sox"). Oftentimes, the singular "Red Sox" will be pronounced as if it were "Red Sox", even though the spelling suggests otherwise. When a team's name is singular, as in Miami Heat and Colorado Avalanche, the same singular word may also sometimes be used to denote a player (a Heat, an Avalanche). When referring to more than one players or Avalanche players or Avalanche players or Avalanche players or Avalanche players or Avalanche). For the (especially British) treatment of teams as plural even if they have singular names, see § Singulars with collective meaning treated as plural above. Adjectives as collective plurals Certain adjectives can be used, uninflected, as plurals denoting people" and "homeless people", as in There are two million unemployed. Such usage is common with the definite article, to denote people of a certain type generally: the unemployed, the homeless. This is common with certain nationalities: the British, the English, the French, the English, the French, the English, the French, the English, the Swiss and those in -ese (the Chinese etc.). In the case of most nationalities, however, the plural of the demonym noun is used for this purpose: (the) Americans, (the) Poles. Cases where the adjective formation is possible, but the noun provides a commonly used alternative, include the Scottish (or more commonly (the) Scots), the Danish (or (the) Danes), the Finnish (or (the) Finns), the Swedish (or (the) Swedes). The noun is normally used anyway when referring to specific sets of people (five Frenchmen, a few Spaniards), although the adjective may be used especially in case of a group of mixed or unspecified sex, if the demonym nouns are gender-specific: there were five French people) in the bar (if neither Frenchmen or Frenchwomen would be appropriate). Numerical quantities In common parlance, plural simply means "more than one". A quantity of one may sometimes be grammatically inflected as plural. This includes 1 followed by any number of zeros. It is normal to say 1.0 gallons per flush, for instance, 0.6 units, or 3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or
\*3.3 children per couple, not \*1.0 gallon, \*0.6 unit, or \*3.0 refers to a fraction of a single item or many items. Equivalent to zero is usually plural or singular, though plural is the default. So the following plurals are standard. We have zero bananas. We h can use no to deny that such an item exists in the singular: "Can you pass me the banana on your desk?" "There's no banana on my desk." Interrogative pronouns The interrogative pronouns who and what generally take singular agreement, [26] e.g. Who works there? In some cases, a plural verb can be used when the answer is expected to be plural[26] What have big ears and trunks? When followed by a plural predicative complement, a singular verb suggests a singular answer. [26] What are the main reasons? Following which, a singular verb suggests a singular verb suggests a plural answer. [26] What are the main reasons? Following which, a singular verb suggests a singular verb sugg Which of these answers are correct? (multiple choice) When asking How many?, plural is standard (e.g. How many banana?), even if the expected answer is only one. See also English personal pronouns Count noun Mass noun Singular they Notes ^ a b c In a Canadian accent, the mutation to a voiced consonant produces a change in the sound of the preceding diphthong (/au/ or /aɪ/). ^ The Toronto Maple Leafs ice hockey team is a special case; see Teams and their members § Notes below. ^ For dwarfs—until J. R. R. Tolkien popularized dwarves; he intended the changed spelling to differentiate the "dwarf" fantasy race in his novels from the cuter and simpler beings common in fairy tales, but his usage has since spread. Multiple astronomical dwarf stars and multiple non-mythological short human beings, however, remain dwarfs. ^ For staff (/stæf/ or /stɑ:f/) in the sense of "a body of employees". the plural is always staff: otherwise, both staffs and staves (/stervz/) are acceptable, except in compounds, such as flagstaffs. Staves is rare in North America except in the sense of "magic rod", or the musical notation tool; stave of a barrel or cask is a back-formation from staves, which is its plural. (See the Plural to singular by backformation section below.) References ^ English Irregular Plural Nouns Archived 30 April 2008 at the Wayback Machine ^ Book titles include Mary Fulbrook, The Two Germanies 1945-1990 (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1996); Henry Ashby Turner, The two Germanies since 1945 (New Haven: Yale UP, 1987). ^ "the definition of money". Dictionary.com. Retrieved 6 April 2018. ^ a b Emerson, Oliver Farrar (1921). The history of the English language. Macmillan. p. 299. OCLC 317104. ^ Partridge, Eric, Usage and Abusage: A Guide to Good English, revised by Janet Whitcut (New York and London: W. W. Norton, 1997), pp. 238-39. ^ "Counsel". Merriam-Webster. Retrieved 26 August 2017. 4a plural counsel (1): a lawyer ... ^ Dictionary.com entry for "brother". ^ Raymond, Eric (1993). "How Jargon Works". The New Hacker's Dictionary. p. 12. Bibcode:1993nhsd.book.....R. But note that 'Unixen' and 'Twenexen' are never used. It has been suggested that this is because '-ix' and '-ex' are sometimes Latin singular endings that attract a Latinate plural. ^ "Sometimes scientists think of data as a singular mass entity like information, and most people now follow this in general usage." "Archived copy". Archived from the original on 4 November 2007. Retrieved 20 October 2007. CS1 maint: archived copy as title (link) ^ "...of the 136 distinguished consultants on usage polled for the 1975 Harper Dictionary of Contemporary Usage, 49% responded that they use "The data is..." in writing. Also, in casual speech, 65% use data as singular. Those who defend "The data is..." often point to the fact that agenda is also, strictly, a plural, but is nearly always regarded as a single list and takes a singular verb. You'll probably never hear anyone ask: "Are the agenda interesting?" ^ "Summary of dictionary sources and scholarly usage". harvard.edu. Archived from the original on 15 May 2008. Retrieved 6 April 2018. ^ New Oxford Dictionary of English, 1999 ^ "...in educated everyday usage as represented by the Guardian newspaper, it is nowadays most often used as a singular." "Archived copy". Archived copy". Archived copy as title (link) ^ "Oxford Dictionaries - The World's Most Trusted Dictionary Provider". Oxford Dictionaries. Retrieved 6 April 2018. ^ "Archived copy". Archived copy". Archived from the original on 11 February 2009. Retrieved 27 June 2014.CS1 maint: archived 26 July 2010 at the Wayback Machine ^ "Open Learning - OpenLearn - Open University". openlearn.open.ac.uk. Retrieved 6 April 2018. ^ "What are the plurals of 'octopus', 'h... - Oxford Dictionaries". Oxford Dictionaries - English. Retrieved 6 April 2018. ^ "What are the plurals of 'octopus', 'h... - Oxford Dictionaries". (Linguistic recommendation from the Translation Bureau)". www.btb.termiumplus.gc.ca. Retrieved 6 April 2018. ^ "Plural problems". Columbia Journalism Review. Retrieved 31 January 2018. ^ Fowler, H. W. (2015). Butterfield, Jeremy (ed.). Fowler's Dictionary of Modern English Usage. Oxford University Press. p. 633. ISBN 978-0-19-966135-0. ^ Harper, Douglas, "Specie". Online Etymological Dictionary, Retrieved 29 August 2010. ^ "The word agenda, for example, was originally plural (from agendum: 'something to be acted on') but is nowadays used only as a singular, and nobody in their right mind would insist that it should be used as a plural." "Archived copy". Archived from the original on 11 February 2009. Retrieved 27 June 2014.CS1 maint: archived copy as title (link) ^ Fowler, H. W., A Dictionary of Modern English Usage, 2nd ed., revised by Sir Ernest Gowers (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965), 403. ^ a b c d Huddleston, Rodney; Pullum, Geoffrey (2002). The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language. Cambridge University Press. pp. 505-506. ISBN 0-521-43146-8. External links Look up Appendix: English irregular nouns in Wiktionary, the free dictionary. Retrieved from "

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