

Lesson 19: S at the end of words

Phonics Rule: S at the end of words changes the meaning. At the end of a noun, it can mean more than one.

Note: “s” is a suffix. A suffix is a letter or group of letters added to a word that changes the meaning of the basic root word. The suffix “s” has a Z sound at the end of some words.

In order to make a noun (a person, place, or thing) plural, you must add an “s”:

cat	cats	rock	rocks
dog	dogs	duck	ducks
jet	jets	deck	decks
lid	lids	sack	sacks
bug	bugs	stick	sticks
game	games	bike	bikes
jeep	jeeps	robe	robes
mule	mules	maid	maids

S at the end of a verb shows the action for a singular subject (Ex: he, she, or it bakes):

bake	bakes	wait	waits
read	reads	feed	feeds
hide	hides	bite	bites
vote	votes	rock	rocks
glue	glues	cut	cuts

If you want to make a word that ends in “ch, s, sh, x, or z” plural, you must add “es” to the end of the word:

church churches

lurch lurches

boss bosses

toss tosses

mash mashes

bush bushes

box boxes

fox foxes

buzz buzzes

fizz fizzes

Nouns ending in “y” after a vowel form a plural by adding “s”:

monkey monkeys

donkey donkeys

In order to make plurals from nouns ending in a “y” after a consonant, you must change the “y” to an “i” and add “es”:

puppy puppies

baby babies

candy candies

With some words that end in “fe”, you must change the “f” to a “v” before you add an “es”.

knife	knives	loaf	loaves
wolf	wolves	leaf	leaves
wife	wives	thief	thieves
dwarf	dwarves	scarf	scarves
wharf	wharves	calf	calves
half	halves		

An “apostrophe + s” shows ownership or possession:

Jim’s pig

Pat’s hair

Kate’s cat

If a word ends in “s”, simply add an apostrophe to show possession:

Chris’ son

The cats’ bowl

The boys’ room

Here are some possessive words that do not use apostrophes:

his	your	our	their
her	yours	ours	theirs
its			

PRACTICE:

1. Sue **waits** in line to vote. She **votes** for the man.
2. The dog **bites** his **bones**. He **digs** deep **holes**.
3. Jill **likes** to bake **cakes**. Bob **cuts** it and **eats** it.
4. Pete **likes** to play **games** like hide-and-seek.
5. Kate **feeds** the **ducks** in the water.
6. Jake **hides** the **sticks** beside the big **rocks**.
7. Sal **wants** to be a vet, so she **reads** about **cats** and **dogs**.
8. Tess **bakes** two **cakes** with her mom.
9. Ted **glues** the **lids** onto the **boxes**.
10. JESUS **writes** a note to the **churches**.
11. The **monkeys** eat the **ban/an/as**.
12. The **babies** are cute.
13. The **wives** make **loaves** of bread.



14. Two **halves** of a cake make one cake.
15. **Kate's** cat is black.
16. **Chris' sons' names** are Noah and Sam.
17. The **cats'** bowl is green.
18. When the oven **beeps**, press **its** button.

