

OCTOPI IS WRONG

by

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A BOOK OF PLURALS

The definitive guide on how to form PLURALS in the English Language

**Intended for EFL (English as a Foreign Language) Students and Teachers
and for all Octopodes (Not Octupi).**

INTRODUCTION

It is amazing that so many English Schools for Foreigners employ unqualified teachers to teach the English Language. In point of fact to become an EFL teacher and teach the English Language in less reputable schools you need no qualifications, no knowledge of grammar or vocabulary and only a scant ability to speak the lingo yourself.

The other day an ex-“lap dancing club” barman, who had recently taken a day job as an ‘English as a Foreign Language’ tutor, asked me whether I knew any simple rules for the formation of plurals in the English language. *Because it was he who did not know whether ‘Tomatos’ or Tomatoes’ was correct!!* I did provide him with a few variants and exceptions but having spent a little time and research, with the aid of the Chambers Dictionary, I intend to publish this easy guide for all those who do not know the vagaries of our mother tongue concerning plural formation.

Dear new English speaker,

Here is an easy guide to one essential of the English Language you might find useful.

How to form plurals.

By far the most consistent rule is that:- the addition of an S to a singular noun word gives you the plural of that word. (Tub – tubs, rat – rats, girl – girls etc.)

There are a few exceptions of course, but still 98% of our plural words are formed by adding the letter S to the singular form of the word (This is Rule 2).

The other 2% comply with other general rules. All the rules are listed in this book.

Rule 1 is simply not to form a plural at all, which is standard with at least 300 words in the English language (sheep – sheep, fish – fish etc.)

Good luck!

For the purposes of clarity: a plural is a word form expressing that there is ‘more than one’, or where dual is recognised as a singular, ‘more than two’, applied to nouns(majority), pronouns(a few) and verbs.

BEFORE YOU LEARN THE RULES

Before we start with ALL the rules, there follows two examples of a passage in English, One using Rule 1 the other without any recourse to any plurals.

By only using Rule 1 new speakers of the English language can easily make themselves understood, and as it is the most common way of forming plurals it is the most essential rule to learn.

Add an 'S' to the singular noun or pronoun form. For instance this is quite easy to understand, isn't it?

“I come from Keslavia, where all Keslavians come from. Back home I have two brothers and three sisters, two parents, two wives, therefore two mother-in-laws, eight childs, ten geoses and sixty sheeps. Hes, shes and its all live in Ashi, one of the many towns in the central steppes. I have worked with shepherds for seventeen years, but now I want to become a mouses-catcher. The five persons who have come to England with me are three mans and two ladys, and Is all want to be mouses-catchers too and catch mouses. I am a good mouses-catcher, I have two strong arms, five fingers on each hand, two legs and two foots, two good eyes and strong tooths, which helps me catch mouses and rats. I have a number of weapons, like Kalashnikovs to kill the little bastards. I would like to be paid in English pounds and pennys and not horrible euros . I have suffered many traumas and crisiss in my country and I would appreciate the opportunity to study at your English for Foreigner school, as I know English words but am not very good at my plurals.

I also like to gamble, and play the horses, dies and cards, and will make lots of moneys”

Alternatively get no further than the second rule and only use that. It is surely the best idea for all new speakers of the English language is to invoke Rule 1 all the time, and never attempt to form a plural, by not changing the word from the singular, and forget about this book all together.

Does this make more sense than before:

“I come from Keslavia, where all Keslavian come from. Back home I have two brother and three sister, two parent, two wife, therefore two mother-in-law, eight child, ten goose and sixty sheep. He, she and it all live in Ashi, one of the many town in the central steppe. I have worked with shepherd for seventeen year, but now I want to become a mouse-catcher. The five person who have come to England with me are three man and two lady, and I all want to be mouse-catcher too and catch mouse. I am a good mouse-catcher, I have two strong arm, five finger on each hand, two leg and two foot, two good eye and strong tooth, which helps me catch mouse and rat. I have a number of weapon, like Kalashnikov to kill the little bastard. I would like to be paid in English pound and pennyand notin horrible euro. I have suffered many trauma and crisis in my country and I would appreciate the opportunity to study at your English for Foreigner school, as I know English word but am not very good at my plural.

I also like to gamble, and play the horse, die and card, and will make lot of money”

NB: Test your knowledge when you have worked through this reader with the correctly pluralized passage on Page 89.

Before you start learning all the rules described in this reader, make note of all that you should try and ignore, which are dealt in appendices or appendixes in the back of the book:-

APPENDICES or APPENDIXES

APPENDIX 1

As one of the appendices to this easy reader deals with plural words that have no singular form, it should be noted that quite often a singular sounding word does exist, but not as a noun. (e.g. KNICKERS, which is both singular and plural, has not got the singular KNICKER as a word on its own, but can be used as an adjective or qualifier with another noun as in KNICKER ELASTIC. Similarly TROUSERS which is a single item of clothing can be seen without the final S as in TROUSER PRESS). *[The proper singular for PAIRS OF KNICKERS is A PAIR OF KNICKERS]*

APPENDIX 2

Some plural sounding words have no singular at all! (e.g. DOLDRUMS, SMITHEREENS or HEADQUARTERS)

APPENDIX 3

Most collective nouns or group names are used in the singular or plural and only where a collective noun has a valid plural will this be indicated. (e.g. SHOAL – SHOALS but not PARAPHENALIA)

APPENDIX 4

Many names of games, activities, social gatherings, studies, time-periods and pursuits derive their name from a singular item (e.g. DARTS from DART, but you cannot have a single game of DART) or from a descriptive word (e.g. GYMNASTICS is formed from the adjective GYMNASTIC, again you cannot pursue ONE GYMNASTIC)

APPENDIX 5

The world of Flora and Fauna introduces into English a wealth of further plural-endings, mostly derived from Latin in the Linnaeus classification system, covering phyla, orders, classes, families etc. of certain plants and animals (e.g. ASCLEPIADACEAE). It is generally accepted that species (plural of SPECIES) and genera (plural of GENUS) are singular, although they may look like plurals, but do of course represent more than one individual.

In general most of the unusual plural forms of nouns in English are derived from borrowed words from other languages, most prevalent being, Latin, Spanish, Italian, German and, of course, Old English etc. If you are a speaker of these languages anyway, you will, no doubt, already know the rules governing plural formation in your own language. SPAGHETTI for instance, is the plural of the Italian word SPAGHETTO, a diminutive of SPAGO, meaning a cord. In English we could only describe the singular, a strand, as A PIECE OF SPAGHETTI. Similarly A BIT OF MACARONI could either mean one single piece of tubular pasta or a part of the whole dish, consisting of many pieces of macaroni. "I only want to eat a BIT OF MACARONI" is distinctive from "I Only want to eat A BIT OF A PIECE OF MACARONI"

You must always take into account how to form singulars from plurals as well as how to form plurals from singulars and how to form plurals from plurals.

I am indebted to The Chambers Dictionary which has been my primary source of reference in this tome and in all my word puzzles and TV wordgames. This will account for many Scottish variants which are listed.

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WARNING!

They say that English is one of the most difficult languages to learn let alone to spell. Consisting of 300,000 words derived from over 100 different languages and with 80% of them having two or more meanings, no wonder!

It is always quite easy to learn the basic and most common rules of grammar, pronunciation and spelling, but it is the exceptions to these rules that cause the difficulty.

In the case of plurals this can be exceptional.

The basic and most common rule in English to form a plural word from the singular is "simply add an S". There's the rule. Although sometimes you might add ES, and sometimes you don't add an S at all, and depending on where the *English* word has come from, there are altogether 275 different forms of plural formation given in this reader and therefore 275 rules governing the formation of plurals of singular words, hyphenated words and phrases. Do not let this number put you off as in approximately 200 cases the rule is unique to that word.

In fact do not let any part of this book put you off trying to get on top of English plurals. Make note of the dos and don'ts (that's Rule 1) and enjoy the exceptions and pitfalls.

In general the rules that follow apply to the plural forms of NOUNS including PRONOUNS.

English VERBS do not change in the plural case from the form of the *first person singular*... although there are a few notable irregular exceptions

(e.g. I AM – WE ARE etc.)

However the only conjugation of English verbs that does occur on a regular basis is that in practically all cases the *third person singular* in the *present case* ends with an added 's'. Students learning English must be aware of this confusion

(for example the word LIES can mean either the plural of a LIE or the third person singular of 'to LIE', as in 'HE LIES DOWN')

Another interesting and common point of confusion with plurals is that the genitive case of both singular and plural nouns take on an added S, 'S or '. (cf: Rules 1 & 5)

For instance the name JAMES can be confusing in differentiating between the genitive case and the plural form:

“JAMES^{ES}” could mean all of the family called James, as in “At home with the Jameses”

“JAMES'S” could mean either the same as above or that belonging to a boy called James

“JAMES' ” could also mean that belonging to a number of people called James

“JAMES” on its own can be a singular Christian name or a number of boys called James and hence “JAMES'S” would be that belonging to a boy called James

In every case in this short reader I have indicated the common usage of the plural:

Underlined:- Whether a plural is the 'sole' or 'only' plural of the singular for all its meanings (e.g. SHEEP – SHEEP)

Not Underlined:- Where one plural form has preference over another, (e.g. FUNGUS – FUNGI as opposed to FUNGUSES); is in common usage (e.g. OCTOPUS – OCTOPUSES as opposed to OCTOPODES) or where different plurals apply to different meanings of the singular (e.g. GOOSE – GEESSE and GOOSE – GOOSSES)

In Italics:- Where a plural form is a valid alternative, is occasionally or rarely used or has an obscure, archaic, dialectal or even obsolete usage (e.g. COW – KINE)

In forming plurals in English remember there are a number of words which do not alter at all from the singular form. As you have to do nothing with these words, except learn them (This is Rule 2).

(The specific changes in each rule are highlighted in red)

(Exceptions to the rule are highlighted in brown)

(The part of the word that does not change is highlighted in grey)

(Words that do not exist in the English language are highlighted in green)

THE RULES

for single singular nouns

PART 1 – ADDITIONS, SUBTRACTIONS & CHANGES

(Nos.1-100)

RULE 1 **(..+S)****ADD AN 'S' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Apart from learning the exceptions and other rules listed below, this major rule works in most cases. When in doubt simply add an **S** to the singular noun and you get the plural. For instance:

FOREIGNER-FOREIGNERS, **EMBRYO-EMBRYOS**, **PARABOLA-PARABOLAS**,
SERF-SERFS, **NYPHO-NYPHOS**, **HOUSE-HOUSES**, **MONGOOSE-MONGOOSES**,
EGG-EGGS, **PEA-PEAS**, etc.

This is such a general rule that only words ending in **J** or **X** do not take this rule. Other English singular words which end in other letters of the alphabet, as well as loan words and abbreviations can form plurals with this rule, as the following examples show:

SPAS, **TUBS**, **SACS**, **LIDS**, **LIES**, **IFS**, **DOGS**, **PATHS**, **SKIS**, **LOCKS**, **PILLS**, **SUMS**,
BINS, **SOLOS**, **HIPS**, **SUQS**, **BARs**, **MSS** (*abbreviation of manuscripts*), **CATS**, **GNUS**,
KALASHNIKOVs, **BOWs**, **BOYS**, **OZs** (*abbreviation for ounces*)

SOLOS is preferable to **SOLI** (see Rule 97) and **GNU** (Rule 2) is preferable to **GNUS**.

MS and **OZ** are abbreviations, **MSS** is the only plural of **MS**, but **OZ** is preferable to **OZS**.

In addition to **J** and **X** no proper full word ending **S** or **Z** takes an added **S** to make the plural. There are only 32 words and abbreviations ending in **J** listed in the Chambers Dictionary, most of which would comply with Rule 2 in the plural or have no plural. It maybe that the plural of **DJ** (abbreviation for disc-jockey or dinner-jacket) could be **DJS**!

NB: See Page 5 why you should be careful not to simply apply this rule to every English word.

RULE 2 **(=)****NO CHANGE**

Do nothing. Words like:

SHEEP, **HAGGIS**, **FISH**, **PINCE-NEZ**, **MOOSE**, **LUX**, **NEXUS**, **BONSAI**

for instance, do not change from the singular to the plural form. There are many more of this type which have to be learnt, all ending with varying letters, such as:

IMPALA, ***BOB*** (*as in 5 bob = 5 shillings old currency*), **SQUID**, **GROUSE**, **SATANG**,
SKI, **FOLK**, **TEAL**, **YEN**, **DEER**, **REINDEER**, **TROUT**,
YOU, **QUAPAW**, **PHLOX**, **FRY** (*as in small fry*), **HERTZ** etc.

NB: Remember that examples given which are underlined use the rule exclusively, those not underlined use the rule preferentially, but those in italics have other more common ways of forming the plural, but this rule is still acceptable and recognised by dictionaries. For instance please note that SKIS (Rule 2 below) is a preferable plural to SKI.

RULE 3 (..+ES)**ADD 'ES' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

If the singular already finishes with an **S** then you should add **ES** in most cases, as in :-

ALIAS-ALIASES, LENS-LENSES, MISS-MISSES etc.

This is also the case for words ending in X and Z, for instance:

**AX-AXES, BOX-BOXES, FOX-FOXES, LYNZ-LYNXES, SIX-SIXES, TAX-TAXES,
BUZZ-BUZZES, PUTZ-PUTZES, WALTZ-WALTZES** etc.

Although the following can take ES the singular can form other plurals

CALYX-CALYXES, CERVIX-CERVIXES, HELIX-HELIXES, INDEX-INDEXES (See Rule 12)
LARYNX-LARYNXES, PHARYNX-PHARYNXES (See Rule 14) **IBEX-IBEXES** (See Rule 1)
FEZ-FEZES (See Rule 1 & 6) & **STRELITZ-STRELITZES** (See Rule 50)

Nearly all words ending in CH or SH follow this rule, for example:-

**APPROACH-APPROACHES, BREECH-BREECHES, RICH-RICHES, ARCH-ARCHES,
ASH-ASHES, WATCH-WATCHES, FISH-FISHES, LUNCH-LUNCHES,
RUSH-RUSHES, MATCH-MATCHES** etc.

There are exceptions such as **AUROCH** and **CONCH** and words ending in TH or CH, like **PATH** and **COUGH** apply Rule 2. However there are many letter endings which do take **ES**, such as:

**NAIAD-NAIADES, DITCH-DITCHES, ALKALI-ALKALIES, FRIJOL-FRIJOLES,
EPIGON-EPIGONES, HOBO-HOBOES, POLYP-POLYPES, LAR-LARES, LASS-LASSES,
THEW-THEWES, BOX-BOXES, STY-STYES & BUZZ-BUZZES**

Do not use this rule with words ending in **B**, such as **PUB** (Rule 2). That could get you into trouble. Many plurals end **CES**, **GES**, **KES**, **TES** & **VES** but their singulars do not end in **C**, **G**, **K**, **T** or **V** etc.

WORDS ENDING IN O

Any word that ends in **O** can also form the plural with the addition of **ES**, apart from those which don't (see Rules 1, 2, 53, 54 & 116-118),. The following only take **ES**:

**BUFFALO-BUFFALOES, ECHO-ECHOES, HERO-HEROES, MANGO-MANGOES,
MOTTO-MOTTOES, POTATO-POTATOES & TOMATO-TOMATOES** etc.

but obviously not those singular words which end in O where you apply Rule 2, as with:-

FANDANGO-FANDANGOS, GAZEBO-GAZEBOS, ORATORIO-ORATORIOS & ZERO-ZEROS.

You will have to learn which **O** ending words take **ES**, and which just **S** and which can form the plural with either, or are governed by other Rules 1, 5, 47, 48, 53, 55, 169, 194, 195 & 196, see below. Don't give up, it's all pretty straightforward.

NB: See Appendix 2 for an 'at-a-glance' list of singular words ending in O and which rule applies to them

RULE 4 (..+SES)**ADD 'SES' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

With certain words add **SES** where a singular form finishes in S.
You'll just have to learn these, such as:-

BUS-BUSSES, NIS-NISSES, PLUS-PLUSSES & YES-YESSES.

The words **AS** and **LIS** can also take **SES** in the plural, but don't worry about them.

NB: The word **AS** (being an ancient Roman copper coin) becomes exclusively **ASSES** in the plural as does the plural of **ASS** (meaning a donkey). There are many double plurals, the same words formed from different singulars. So beware!

RULE 5 (..+'S)**ADD 'S' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

'S can be added to certain abbreviations, like:-

BI-BI'S, ST-ST'S & OK-OK'S

As well as:

DO-DO'S, SETTO-SETTO'S, NO-NO - NO-NO'S, & EX-EX'S

And any letter of the alphabet:

A-A'S, B-B'S, C-C'S, F-F'S, J-J'S, O-O'S, Z-Z'S etc.

Is that O.K? Easy so far, isn't it?

RULE 6 (..+ZES)**ADD 'ZES' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **ZES** to the end of a singular, which ends in a single **Z** preceded by a vowel, to form the plural, as with:-

QUIZ-QUIZZES & FEZ-FEZES

These are the two best known words which add **ZES**, but the rule should apply to the following as well:

**ALFEREZ, BEZ, CAPIZ, FIZ, HAKENKREUZ, LEZ, LUZ,
OYEZ, PHIZ, SOYUZ, SQUIZ, SWIZ & ZUS**

But never to **CHEZ** (which is a preposition), **ENTREZ** (an imperative) or **PINCE-NEZ** (See Rule 1). Neither to **OZ**. (Rule 2) nor **KAMEEZ & TOPAZ** (both of which comply with Rule 3). Words ending **NZ, RZ, TZ & ZZ** take **ES** to form their plurals, such as **GUNZ, FAHLERZ, WALTZ, ERSATZ & QUARTZ**. A notable exception is the Hebrew word **KIBBUTZ** (see Rule ??)

RULE 7 (..Y/IES)**CHANGE A FINAL 'Y' OF THE SINGULAR TO 'IES'**

Recognising an 'S' ending as a plural in languages such as French and Spanish as well as English, means that in general in English it is an accepted rule that if a word ends with a Y in the singular, the **Y** is changed to **IES** in the plural, for example:-

**BABY-BABIES, FLY-FLIES, LADY-LADIES, MYSTERY-MYSTERIES
& WELLY-WELLIES**

However if the Y is preceded by a vowel simply add S, as in Rule 2 such as:-

DAY-DAYS, BUOY-BUOYS, FOGY-FOGEYS & GUY-GUYS.

However there are a few exceptions to both these rules as in:-

MONEY-MONIES, PENNY-PENCE, GOY-GOYIM, LEY-LEI & ORGY-ORGIA.

See the following rules, Rule 8 and Rules 28, 63, 128 & 129 respectively.

NB: Many singular words which end in **..IE** also simply add an **S** (Rule1) for the plural. Be careful when back-forming a singular from a plural ending **IES**, that you know the singular ends in either **Y** or **IE**. For example the following plurals:- **AUSSIES, PIES, MAGPIES, BIRDIES** (as in golf), **TIES, MOVIES, BOOGIE-WOOGIES, BOOKIES, CAPERCAILLIES, GEORDIES, LASSIES, MENAGERIES, PRAIRIES, FALSIES & WHOOPSIES** all have singulars ending in **IE** (Rule 2), whereas plurals like **ALLIES, CIVVIES, GROCERIES, FIFTIES, SIXTIES, SEVENTIES, HOSTILITIES, NAPPIES, SYZYGIES, SKIES, TOILETRIES & TRIES** all have singulars ending in **Y** (This Rule). Some such plurals like **AUNTIES**, for example have either **AUNTY** or **AUNTIE** as a proper singular. **SERIES** is the plural of itself (Rule 1) and **MACARONIES** is the plural of **MACARONI** (Rule 3), which itself is a plural word, derived from Italian (Italian singular *MACARONE*). **RABIES, SCABIES & SPECIES** do not have singular forms (See Appendix ??).

RULE 8 (..EY/IES)**CHANGE 'EY' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'IES'**

This exceptional rule where a singular ending in **EY** is replaced by **IES** in the plural occurs with only two words:-

MONEY-MONIES & WURLEY-WURLIES

Both of which are acceptable alternative spellings to first preference plurals, where one simply adds an **S** (Rule 2) The Rule sometimes can apply to:-

SPINNEY-SPINNIES & TROLLEY-TROLLIES

But these plurals probably derive from the alternative singular spellings **SPINNY** and **TROLLY**.

All other words ending in **EY** comply solely with Rule 2, for example:-

ABBEY, ALLEY, CHIMNEY, DONKEY, HONEY, JERSEY, KEY, KIDNEY, LAMPREY, MONKEY, OSPREY, PULLEY, QUEY, STOREY, STRATHSPEY, SURVEY, VALLEY & VOLLEY etc.

However the word **PREY** follows Rule 1.

RULE 9 (**..F/VES**)**CHANGE A FINAL 'F' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'VES'**

This rule does cause a little controversy on occasion, but it is one of the basic rules of plural formation in English, that you must recognise.

If your single word ends in F change the **F** to **VES**. As with:-

CALF-CALVES, **DWARF-DWARVES**, **HALF-HALVES**, **HOOF-HOOVES**, **LEAF-LEAVES**,
LOAF-LOAVES, **SELF-SELVES**, **SHELF-SHELVES**, **THIEF-THIEVES**, **TURF-TURVES**
WHARF-WHARVES & **WOLF-WOLVES** etc.

You will have to learn the exceptions to Rule 7 such as **WAIF**, **ROOF**, **CHIEF**, **SERF** (Rule 2) and **ERF** (Rule 21), as well as **STAFF** (Rule 11) and **BUMF** (Rule 1).

NB: Please note that both **DWARVES**, **TURVES** and **WHARVES** are alternative plurals to the more usual **DWARFS** and **TURFS**.

RULE 10 (**..FE/VES**)**CHANGE 'FE' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'VES'**

Similar to Rule 9, where an F changes to V in the plural with added ES, if the word ends in **FE** change to **VES**, as follows:-

KNIFE-KNIVES, **WIFE-WIVES** & **LIFE-LIVES**

There are many words with **WIFE** as a suffix which change to **WIVES** in the plural, for instance:

HOUSEWIFE-HOUSEWIVES, **ALEWIFE-ALEWIVES**, **FISHWIFE-FISHWIVES**,
MIDWIFE-MIDWIVES, **GOODWIFE-GOODWIVES**, **SPAEWIFE-SPAEWIVES**,
WITCH-WIFE - WITCH-WIVES, **COMMON-LAW WIFE-COMMON-LAW WIVES** etc.

But not **SEAWIFE** (a kind of wrasse, a bony fish). The plural being **SEAWIFES**

Similarly for **STILL-LIFE** the plural is **STILL-LIFES**., and **WILDLIFE** is already a collective noun and has no plural.

Other exceptions do occur to this rule, i.e. **CAFÉ-CAFÉS**, **SAFE-SAFES** & **GIRAFFE-GIRAFFES**.

But beware! Not all plurals ending in **VES** ever had an **F** in the singular, for instance the singular of **CHIVES** is **CHIVE**, and of **GRAVES** is **GRAVE** (Rule 2)

RULE 11 (..FF/VES)**CHANGE 'FF' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'VES'**

Words that end **FF** in the singular, both **F**'s are converted to **VES** in the plural as in Rules 9 & 10, eg:

TIPSTAFF-TIPSTAVES

However this word and STAFF (meaning) are the only words to obey this rule and then only as an alternative.

In general FF endings simply take an added S for the plural, following Rule 2, as with:

SNIFF, MUFF, CUFF, BAILIFF etc.

RULE 12 (..X/CES)**CHANGE A FINAL 'X' OF THE SINGULAR TO 'CES'**

If the singular form of the word ends in X then change this **X** to **CES** to form the plural, as in

APPENDIX-APPENDICES, CERVIX-CERVICES, HELIX-HELICES, MATRIX-MATRICES, RECTRIX-RETRICES & SPADIX-SPADICES,

This is the first rule governing loaned Latin words, with Latin/Greek plural endings. The examples above all end in **IX** but other words which have different vowels before the final **X** also comply to this rule, such as:

**THORAX-THORACES, SCOLEX-SCOLECES, VOX-VOCES, CRUX-CRUCES
& CALYX-CALYCES**

And:-

CALX-CALCES & LANX-LANCES

There are many exceptions to this rule. Usually English words ending in X comply with Rule 3, as with

AX, TAX, FLEX, SEX, SIX, FIX, LYNX, QUINCUNX, BOX, FLUX, APTERYX etc.

However, with words ending NX, apart from **LANX** above, **LYNX** and **QUINCUNX** (Rule 3) see Rule 14 . For other X endings see Rules 13 (e.g:- FLEX),15 (e.g:- REMEX),16 (e.g:- LARNAX) and 17 (e.g:- OX).

Many borrowed french words in English end in **UX**, this is invariably the plural form of words ending EAU, e.g ADIEUX, BEAUX, CHATEAUX etc. see Rule

NB: SCOLEX above, is unusual in this rule, as most EX endings should be dealt with by the next rule, Rule 13.

RULE 13 **(..EX/ICES)****CHANGE 'EX' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ICES'**

Generally, if the singular form ends in EX then change **EX** to **ICES** in the plural. As with:-

APEX-APICES, INDEX-INDICES, CORTEX-CORTICES, VORTEX-VORTICES

Apart from **SCOLEX** which complies with (Rule 12) above and **REMEX** see below (Rule 15), about 40% of final EX words, such as:-

ANNEX, COMPLEX, REFLEX, HEX, REX & SEX etc. add ES (Rule 3)

NB: There are a few more interesting words ending in EX, which are quite special. For instance **REX** (see above) can also be the plural of **REIK** (meaning a prank) (Rule ??); **FORFEX** is a pair of scissors (Rule 2), **IBEX** can remain unchanged in the plural (Rule 1), **PODEX** is just a lovely word for the rump, and **GOOGLEPLEX**, which is the highest number ever given a name, cannot possibly have a plural!!! (A **GOOGLE** is the number 1 followed by 100 zeros[10¹⁰⁰], while a **GOOGLEPLEX** is 1 followed by a google zeros[10^{google}])

RULE 14 **(..X/GES)****CHANGE A FINAL 'X' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'GES'**

In some instances the singular form which ends in **X** is changed to **GES** in the plural, i.e:-

LARYNX-LARYNGES, PHARYNX-PHARYNGES & SPHINX-SPHINGES

It appears that this rule applies only to words ending in X if they are preceded by N, another example being:-

PHORMINX-PHORMINGES

but to avoid misunderstanding DO NOT use this rule with MINX or LYNX (Rule 3) nor **LANX** (Rule 12).

RULE 15 **(..EX/IGES)****CHANGE 'EX' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'IGES'**

Likewise **EX** is changed to **IGES** in the following:-

REMEX-REMIGES

This is the only example of this rule in the English language, other words ending in EX comply with Rules 1, 3, 12 or 13.

RULE 16 **(..X/KES)****CHANGE A FINAL 'X' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'KES'**

There is only one word which ends in X which forms the plural by replacing the **X** with **KES**. It is:-

LARNAX-LARNAKES

NB: To re-iterate:- The main X rules (Rules 12-16) do not apply to such words as: **IBEX** (Rule 1), **BOX** (Rule 3), **OX** (Rule 18), **ANTEFIX** (Rule 70), **PYX** (Rule 80) **BILLET-DOUX** (Rule ?), and **SOX**, already a plural (Rule ?) and **BUREAUX** etc (Rule ??) Also for those who interested in Flora and Fauna there are a number of genera which end with an X, i.e:- **SOREX**, **SPINIFEX**, **TUBIFEX**, **ULEX** etc. Usually in the case of a genus, a singular collective noun, the plural is not used, but a family name can be derived therefrom, such as in the one of the examples above:- the genus **SOREX** is a member of the family **SORICIDAE**.

RULE 17 **(..+EN)****ADD 'EN' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

We have many old English words which take Old English and Germanic forms of the plural such as the addition of **EN**. For example:

HERR-HERREN, NIBELUNG-NIBELUNGEN & OX-OXEN

This rule does not apply to **FOX**, **PHLOX**, **FLUMMOX**, **COX** or **BOX**. (See Rules 12-16). Nor words like **PURR**, **WHIRR**, **AQUALUNG** and **STURMABTEILUNG** (which is already a plural). **BOXEN**, by the way, is an adjective, not a plural, and the words **WOX** and **WOXEN** are the *past tense* and *past participle* of the word **WAX**.

RULE 18 **(..+REN)****ADD 'REN' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **REN** as in

CHILD-CHILDREN

This is the only case of this rule in English, and it is the most usual plural of the two that can be formed from **CHILD**, (see Rule ??)

RULE 19**(..O/E..ER/REN)****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'O' TO 'E' AND A FINAL 'ER' TO 'REN'**

Change the central vowel from **O** to **E** and change the ending **ER** to **REN** as in

BROTHER-BRETHREN

An unusual plural formation allied to Rules 17 & 18, but applied to the word **BROTHER** specifically in certain circumstances, such as when used in the sense of fellow-members of an organisation or sect or in the group name of certain bodies, such as The **PLYMOUTH BRETHREN**. Otherwise Rule 2 applies.

RULE 20**(..A/E..)****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'A' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'E'**

Some familiar words ending in **MAN** also change the vowel from **A** to **E**, eg:

**MAN-MEN, WOMAN-WOMEN, CHAIRMAN-CHAIRMEN,
ENGLISHWOMAN-ENGLISHWOMEN, TRADESMAN-TRADESMEN, YEOMAN-YEOMEN**

But other words ending in **MAN** comply with Rule 2, such as:

CAYMAN, HUMAN, OTTOMAN, SHAMAN & TALISMAN

Note particularly that **NORSEMAN-NORSEMEN** complies with the rule but **NORMAN-NORMANS** does not; **WORKMAN-WORKMEN** does, but **WALKMAN-WALKMANS** does not.

RULE 21**(..EN/INES)****CHANGE 'EN' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'INES'**

To form the plural of a word ending in **EN** substitute **INES**, this rule applies only to the word

PECTEN-PECTINES

for other words like **LUMEN, NOMEN & STAMEN** see Rule 25, and other words such as **CHICKEN, ELEVEN, PEN, WREN** follow Rule 2. Some words ending in **EN** such as **OXEN, CHILDREN, BRETHREN** and **WOMEN** are already plurals – see previous Rules 17,18,19, & 20.

RULE 22**(..EN/INA)****CHANGE 'EN' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'INA'**

Words ending MEN, the **EN** is changed to **INA** in the plural form, this occurs with words like

FORAMEN-FORAMINA, RUMEN-RUMINA, STAMEN-STAMINA

but obviously not any MEN, which is plural already, and not those that follow Rule 2:

ABDOMEN, HYMEN, OMEN or AMEN

NB: The word **SEMINAR** has got nothing to do with **SEMEN** well it does but only in the derivation of the word from the Latin

RULE 23**(..OO/EE..)****CHANGE MEDIAL 'OO' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'EE'**

This Rule is a favourite irregularity in English. Some words that have a double **OO** in the singular, change the vowels to double **EE** in the plural. Best known are:-

FOOT-FEET, GOOSE-GEESE & TOOTH-TEETH

But beware of **MONGOOSE, BOOT, ROOT, GOOSEFOOT & TABOO** etc, which apply Rule 2. Note also that the plural of **TOOTHBRUSH** is **TOOTHBRUSHES**

NB: The word **GOOSE** in the sense ?? follows Rule 2 making **GOOSES**

RULE 24**(..OUS/IC..)****CHANGE MEDIAL 'OUS' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'IC'**

Another vowel change occurs with the final letters of singulars that finish with **OUSE**, here the **OUS**, changes to **IC** in the plural, as in:-

**LOUSE-LICE, WOODLOUSE-WOODLICE, MOUSE-MICE, DORMOUSE-DORMICE,
TITMOUSE-TITMICE & REARMOUSE-REARMICE**

but not in **HOUSE, BLOUSE & SPOUSE**(Rule 2) or **GROUSE & LOBSCOUSE**(Rule 1)

NB: For those interested **MICE & DORMICE** are rodents, but **TITMICE** are birds and **REARMICE** are bats.

RULE 25**(..NY/CE)****CHANGE 'NY' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'CE'**

A specialised plural is formed from one word by change the ending **NY** to **CE**, as in:-

PENNY-PENCE

Do not attempt to try this with words like **BLENNY**, **BUNNY**, **DUNNY** or **FANNY**. They form the plural by following Rule 7 as does **PENNY** as a specific alternative to this rule, especially when it is a material object = **PENNIES**.

Strictly there is only one other word that is governed by this rule and that is

HALFPENNY – HALFPENCE

Although the plural form of **PENNY** occurs in many other combinations such as **TUPPENCE**, **THREEPENCE**, **SIXPENCE**, **NEW PENCE**, **OLD PENCE** etc. especially as units of value with regard to financial quantity, the singular form would always be the same, **ONE PENNY**. When **-PENCE** words are used as descriptive of specific coins they become singular and are interchangeable with the word **PENNY**, as with **SIXPENCE** or **SIXPENNY BIT**, **TENPENCE** or **TEN PENNY PIECE**, but usually only a **FIFTY-PENCE** or **FIFTY-PENCE PIECE**, and all can be pluralized using Rule 2. **SIXPENCES**, **TENPENCES**, **FIFTY-PENCES** etc. Note that it is **A SILVER THREEPENNY** or **THRUPENNY BIT** but always a shiny little **SIXPENCE**,

“I’ve got a sixpence, jolly jolly sixpence,
I’ve got sixpence to last me all my life,
I’ve got tuppence to spend and tuppence to lend
And tuppence to send unto my wife”

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(**FENCE** is not the plural of **FENNY**)

RULE 26**(..+C..)****ADD 'C' IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **C** before the final letter in the singular ending **IE**. This is the one rule that most English speakers either forget or get wrong, and is a specific rule for a specific object. This is:-

DIE-DICE

Remember **DIE** is the singular form, **DICE** the plural. **ONE DIE**, **TWO DICE**, **THREE DICE** etc. Because so many English speakers use the plural word **DICE** instead of the correct singular, the plural has become an alternative for the singular, and its own plural follows Rule 1. i.e.

DICE-DICE

This rule does not apply to any other word ending in **IE** such as **LIE**, **PIE** or **TIE** (Rule 2)

RULE 27**(..UM/A)****CHANGE 'UM' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'A'**

Now we come to our most important and well known Latin plural formations, this and the following Rules 28-32, which apply to so many words in English with Latin or Greek roots. All change the endings from the singular form to the plural form as they did in Latin. The best known are words that end in UM in the singular which are derived from the Latin. This rule changes the **UM** to **A** in the plural.

I have divided this rule into six groups. First the group of words where the singular and the sole plural form are both well-known, such as:

**ADDENDUM-ADDENDA, MOMENTUM-MOMENTA, PHYLUM-PHYLA,
PODIUM-PODIA, ROSTRUM-ROSTRA, SPECTRUM-SPECTRA etc.**

The second group consists of words where the singular is better known than its sole plural form, such as:

**ARBORETUM-ARBORETA, DUODENUM-DUODENA, MAXIMUM-MAXIMA,
MINIMUM-MINIMA, OPTIMUM-OPTIMA, QUANTUM-QUANTA,
ULTIMATUM-ULTIMATA, VACUUM-VACUA, VELUM-VELA etc.**

Note that **VACUUM** above means space without air, whereas **VACUUM** as a short form for **VACUUM CLEANER** complies with Rule 2.

The third group is where the sole plural is more well known and more often used than its singular, such as:

BACTERIUM-BACTERIA, DATUM-DATA, ERRATUM-ERRATA, STRATUM-STRATA etc.

The fourth group are Latin words that are common because they are nouns relating to the human body or its functions, of a personal nature, like:

**OVUM-OVA, LABIUM-LABIA, RECTUM-RECTA, ILEUM-ILEA,
PUDENDUM-PUDENDA, SPUTUM-SPUTA etc.**

Group five: There are many more, of a less intimate or medical nature, where the UM/A exchange is preferential and more commonly used than the +S rule, such as:

**CEREBELLUM-CEREBELLA, EMPORIUM-EMPORIA, MILLENNIUM-MILLENNIA,
PLECTRUM-PECTRA, SANITARIUM-SANITARIA, TRAPEZIUM-TRAPEZIA**

Group six consists of words where the UM/A rule is usually secondary to the +S or other rules, as with:

**AQUARIUM-AQUARIA, COMPENDIUM-COMPENDIA, DELIRIUM-DELIRIA,
FORUM-FORA, FULCRUM-FULCRA, GYMNASIUM-GYMNASIA,
PREMIUM-PREMIA, & SERUM-SERA etc.**

There are over many many more of these words, a comprehensive list of UM/A words can be found under Appendix 3

Unfortunately there are also many, many exceptions to this rule with words ending in UM, both non-Latin and Latin words. Exceptions to this rule include

ALBUM, ASYLUM, FACTOTUM, LOCUM, MUSEUM, PENDULUM, RUM, SUM and others

All simply take Rule 2 with an additional S in the plural form. And **VACUUM** (see above)

Old English words such as **BUM, CHUM, DRUM, HUM, PLUM, SCUM, SCRUM & SLUM** etc always comply with Rule 2.

RULE 28**(..US/I)****CHANGE 'US' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'I'**

The second most prevalent plural formation from a Latin borrowed or Latin root word is where the singular ends in US. Change **US** at the end to **I**, as in:-

CACTUS-CACTI, FOCUS-FOCI, FUNGUS-FUNGI, TERMINUS-TERMINI,

Some words ending in US only take this rule and no other, but of course do need to be recognised and learnt, such as:

CUMULUS-CUMULI, HUMERUS-HUMERI, LOCUS-LOCI, MODULUS-MODULI,
NUCLEUS-NUCLEI, OESOPHAGUS-OESOPHAGI,
STIMULUS-STIMULI, & UTERUS-UTERI etc.

Note that **HUMERUS** is the name of a bone in the upper arm, called the funny bone at the elbow, this, of course, is not **HUMEROUS**, which is not governed by any plural formation. Other words which take the change US/I in preference to +ES (Rule 3) or other Rules include:

ABACUS-ABACI, MENISCUS-MENISCI, PHALLUS-PHALLI, RADIUS-RADII,
RHOMBUS-RHOMBI, SARCOPHAGUS-SARCOPHAGI & TERMINUS-TERMINI etc.

Some US ending words are second choice alternatives to +ES, which has preference, such as:

GENIUS-GENII, INCUBUS-INCUBI, NARCISSUS-NARCISSI
& SYLLABUS-SYLLABI etc.

Finally one word ending in US can form its plural by Rule 1 in preference (No Change), Rule 3 (+ES) before its correct Latin plural, which is

HIPPOTAMUS-HIPPOTAMI

You are therefore more likely to come across **HIPPOTAMUS** and **HIPPOTAMUSES** than **HIPPOTAMI**.

For other Latin and Greek based words ending US, such as:

ANUS, BONUS, CHORUS, CIRCUS, CROCUS, FLATUS, HIATUS, ICTUS, LOTUS, MINUS,
PRIMUS, REBUS, SINUS, URUS, VENUS, VIRUS & WALRUS etc, always apply Rule 3.

But Rule 4 applies to **BUS, PLUS, SUS & WUS**

Words such as **CANTUS, PLEXUS, PUS, HOCUS-POCUS, NEXUS & VOMITUS** etc. do not change in the plural form (Rule 1).

There are also many non-Latin/Greek words which end in US which also do not comply with this rule, for instance: **US, BUS, FIDIBUS, GIBUS, HUMMUS, KURHAUS, MUNDUNGUS** etc.

Names of genera which have no plural, for example: **ELANUS, FICUS, HIBISCUS, LUPUS, PICUS, RHUS, QUERCUS, ULMUS, XENURUS** etc. (see Appendix ?)

Beware also of words ending in US which themselves are plurals of words ending in U, like : **GNUS, NILGAUS, PLATEAUS** etc.

And also other figures of speech: **THUS** (adverb), **VERSUS** (preposition) and hundreds of adjectives which end in OUS or IOUS such as:

BULBOUS, CAPRICIOUS, FABULOUS & VICIOUS etc.

You should be getting the hang of it now!! When and how to apply the right rule to the right singular and how to recognise the exceptions to each rule, as with more US endings like:-

GENUS, CORPUS, JUS, OCTOPUS, UTRICULUS, DEUS & INCUS,
 Which are dealt with below in Rules 29-34 and Rule , Code O & EA

RULE 29**(..US/ERA)****CHANGE 'US' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ERA'**

Change **US** at end of singular to **ERA**. Try and learn these specific examples:-

GENUS-GENERA & OPUS-OPERA

RULE 30**(..US/ORA)****CHANGE 'US' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ORA'**

Change **US** at end of singular to **ORA**. This occurs in

CORPUS-CORPORA

RULE 31**(..S/RA)****CHANGE 'S' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'RA'**

In a single example of a word ending in US change **S** at end of singular to **RA**. This is solely for:

JUS-JURA

RULE 32**(..U/ODE..)****CHANGE MEDIAL 'U' BEFORE 'S' TO 'ODE'**

In this word ending in US Change the **U** to **ODE** before the S to form the plural, as:-

OCTOPUS-OCTOPODES

Important note: There is no such plural as **OCTUPI**, although **OCTUPUSES** (Rule 3) is acceptable, **OCTOPUS** (Rule 1) is preferable, **OCTOPODES** is a perfectly correct form of the plural. *English people are always amazed at this!! Amaze some of them by using it!*

RULE 33**(..US/LI)****CHANGE A FINAL 'US' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'LI'**

Change **US** at end of singular to **LI**. This only occurs in one word derived from Latin

UTRICULUS-UTRICULLI

Amongst other exceptions to the Latin endings in Rules 31-36 are:

BUS, WAMUS, US, LOTUS, ZEUS & JESUS (Rules 2 or 3) and **DEUS** see below (Rule 37)

RULE 34**(..EUS/I)****CHANGE A FINAL 'EUS' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'I'**

Change **EUS** to **I** to make the plural of one very important word

DEUS-DI**RULE 35****(..+DE..)****ADD A MEDIAL 'DE' TO THE SINGULAR**

Add **DE** before **S** with certain words derived from the Greek such as

IRIS-IRIDES, APSIS-APSIDES, EPHEMERIS-EPHEMERIDES, GLANS-GLANDES
PROBOSCIS-PROBOSCIDES, CHLAMYS-CHLAMYDES, INCUS-INCUCES
& STAPES-STAPEDES

though not **DEBRIS** (Rule 1), although please note that **THE HEBRIDES** is not the plural of **A HEBRIS**, nor is the word **SIDES** plural of **SIS**, nor **IDES** plural of **IS**, nor **HADES** plural of **HAS**. Also note that the word **BESIDES** is not a plural at all, but an adverb.

RULE 36**(..I/E..)****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'I' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'E'**

Words ending **IS**. Change the final vowel in the singular form from an **I** to an **E** to make the plural ending in **ES**: Examples:-

AXIS-AXES, CRISIS-CRISES, EMPHASIS-EMPHASES, OASIS-OASES, PENIS-PENES
PARENTHESIS-PARENTHESSES, PUBIS-PUBES, THESIS-THESES etc.

but not with **CHASSIS** (Rule 1) and **APSIS** (Rule 45) or **SKIS** which is already plural.

RULE 37**(..ON/A)****CHANGE A FINAL 'ON' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'A'**

Change ending of **ON** in the singular to **A** to form the plural, as with:

**PHENOMENON-PHENOMENA, AUTOMATON-AUTOMATA,
TETRAHEDRON-TETRAHEDRA, AMNION-AMNIA, ENTERON-ENTERA,
CRITERION-CRITERIA, MICRON-MICRA & GANGLION-GANGLIA** etc.

Beware of all the exceptions to this rule, a lot of words which sound as if they are of Latin or Greek extraction do not comply with this rule, like **DECAGON, MICRON, HEPTATHLON, EMBRYON** (Rule 2), **COLON** (Rules 2 & 3) and **MOUFFLON** (Rule 1). Old English words ending in ON such as: **IRON, SPOON, MOON, FLAGON, WAGON & DRAGON** all comply with Rule 2.

RULE 38**(..+E)****ADD 'E' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

When a singular form of a word derived from the Latin root word ends in A add **E** to make the plural, as with these very well known examples:

**ALGA-ALGAE, ANTENNA-ANTENNAE, LARVA-LARVAE,
MINUTIA-MINUTIAE & VERTEBRA-VERTEBRAE** etc.

More examples of this rule include:-

**NOVA-NOVAE, TERRA-TERRAE, TESSERA-TESSERAE, AMOEBA-AMOEBAE,
NOVA-NOVAE, PUPA-PUPAE & VERRUCA-VERRUCAE** etc.

And those words which have the plural following this rule but only as a non-preferential option:-

**EPHEMERA-EPEMERAE, FUANA-FUANAE, FLORA-FLORAE, VAGINA-VAGINAE,
PATELLA-PATELLAE, URETHRA-URETHRAE & RETINA-RETINAE**

Many words ending in A comply with this rule with the obvious exceptions of:-

PRIMA DONNAS, AUBRETIAS, PAVLOVAS, COBRAS, ZEBRAS and BRAS

Some other words that take an added E at the end of the singular to make the plural do not end in A. They are mostly German, and in one case Lappish loan word:-

**AUSSICHTSPUNKT-AUSSICHTSPUNKTE, FEHM-FEHME, INSELBRG-INSELBERGE,
SAAM-SAAME, VEHMGERICHT-VEHMGERICHTE & WANDERJAHR- WANDERJAHRE** etc.

RULE 39**(..+DES)****ADD 'DES' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**Add **DES** to Greek singular to form the plural, as**DOLMA-DOLMADES**

Well known in the plural form for those who eat in Greek and Cypriote restaurants

RULE 40**(..UT/ITA)****CHANGE A FINAL 'UT' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'ITA'**Change **UT** to **ITA** at end of Latin singular to form the plural, such as:**CAPUT-CAPITA & SINCIPUT-SINCIPITA****RULE 41****(..+TA)****ADD 'TA' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**Words ending in MA which have a faintly Greek root form the plural by adding **TA**, such as**STIGMA-STIGMATA, ENEMA-ENAMATA, MAGMA-MAGMATA, MIASMA-MIASMATA, TRAUMA-TRAUMATA, PHANTASMA-PHANTASMATA, SOMA-SOMATA, SCHEMA-SCHEMATA, EMBLEMA-EMBLEMATA, CARCINOMA-CARCINOMATA & MYXOMA-MYXOMATA** etc.etc., but not **ANATHEMA, CINEMA, COMMA, DRAMA, GRANDMA** or **PUMA** (see Rule 2), nor **DRACHMA** (Rules 2, 42 or 79), **SQUAMA** or **STRUMA** (Rule 42).**RULE 42****(..+X)****ADD 'X' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**A very common French ending occurs in all words used in English, which are derived from French and end EAU. In these cases an **X** is added to form the plural, such as with:-**BEAU-BEAUX, BUREAU-BUREAUX, CHÂTEAU-CHÂTEAUX, FLAMBEAU-FLAMBEAUX, GÂTEAU-GÂTEAUX, PLATEAU-PLATEAUX, TABLEAU-TABLEAUX & TROUSSEAU-TROUSSEAUX** etc.etc. but this may not be the case with such words as **GASPERAU, MOINEAU** and certainly not **GATEAU**, without the accented **Â** (Rule 2), or indeed a painting in 'a collection of **WATTEAUX**' And adding an X does not only happen with those words ending EAU, this rule can also be applied to:**ADIEU-ADIEUX**

RULE 43**(..-A..+X)****DROP MEDIAL 'A' AND ADD 'X' TO THE END**

Some French derived words ending EAU, add an **X** in the plural form, but also drop the penultimate **A** as well. The only word which is used in English like this is:

JAMBEAU-JAMBEUX**RULE 44****(..IL/UX)****CHANGE A FINAL 'IL' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'UX'**

Another French rule is that the plural of a singular ending in AIL is formed by changing the **IL** to **UX** as in the loaned English word

VITRAIL-VITRAUX

but not in **TRAVAIL** (Rule 2)

RULE 45**(..C/X)****CHANGE A FINAL 'C' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'X'**

Another X-ending plural is formed when, in an English abbreviation, a terminal **C** in the singular is changed to an **X**, as in

PIC-PIX

but this is possibly unique, although compare **SOCK** (Rule 46). *PIX is believed to have been formed by a corrupt spelling of the sound made from the preferential spoken plural "PICS"*

RULE 46**(..CK/X)****CHANGE A FINAL 'CK' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'X'**

A variant of Rule 45 sees **CK** in the singular changed to **X** in the plural, as with

SOCK-SOX

This 'slang' spelling is in wide use, but the rule itself cannot be used elsewhere as a plural, for instance **COX** is not the plural of **COCK**, and never could be. Try and find out what the plural of **COX** is? **COX'S** is the genitive of **COX**, as in **COX'S ORANGE PIPPIN**, a type of apple named after Mr R Cox, which is sometimes shortened to **COXES** in the plural. The singular word **POX** however does derive from the plural of **POCK**, a pustule.

RULE 47**(..O/I)****CHANGE A FINAL ‘O’ IN THE SINGULAR TO ‘I’**

Many Italian words have been assimilated into the English language and naturally take on the Italian plural form changing a singular ending **O** into **I**, such as in loaned words like

LIBRETTO**-LIBRETT**I**, DIVERTIMENT**O**-DIVERTIMENT**I**, CONCERT**O**-CONCERT**I**,
VIRTUOS**O**-VIRTUOS**I**, CONTRALT**O**-CONTRALT**I**,
TEMPO-TEMPI & CORNETT**O**-CORNETT**I** etc.**

There are many exceptions to this rule: **DYNAMO, BORDELLO, GROTT**O** & GHETT**O**** (Rule 3) and **TOMATO, RISOTT**O** & DITT**O**** (Rule 2), **TYMPANO** (Rule 47), **IMPRESARI**O**** (Rule 48), **IMAGO** (Rule 53), **PULVILLIO** (Rule 194), **BRACCIO** (Rule 195) & **ALBERGO** (Rule 196).

The word CORNETTO is well known from a Walls ice-cream advertising jingle that goes “Just one Cornetto!” sung to the tune of Italian love-song “O Sole Mio”
If the advert had concentrated on more than one ice-cream, the plural would have become better known in English , e.g; “Just two, three or four CORNETTI!”

Most of the words given above are better known in their singular form, but the following words are better known in their plural form, following this rule, than in their correct singular:-

CASTRATO**-CASTRAT**I**, LITERAT**O**-LITERAT**I**,
PAPARAZZ**O**-PAPARAZZ**I** & GRAFFIT**O**-GRAFFIT**I** etc.**

Note that the plural word **GRAFFITI** in English is always used in preference to the singular **GRAFFITO**, which nobody would ever say.

The word CONFETTI, which are the small pieces of coloured paper thrown at brides and bridegrooms is a plural, derived from the Italian, but the Italian singular **CONFETTO** does not exist in English.

NB: For all words that end in O and the different rules that apply, especially whether it should be Rule 1, 2 or 3 see Appendix ??

RULE 48**(..-O)****SUBTRACT ‘O’ FROM THE END OF THE WORD**

If the Italian derived singular word ends IO drop the **O** to make the plural form, as in

IMPRESARIO**-IMPRESARI, CAPPRICI**O**-CAPPRICI,
FASCI**O**-FASCI & PRELUDI**O**-PRELUDI** etc.

but this does not always happen with **ADAGIO, EMBROGLIO, CURI**O**** etc. (Rule 2) or the other words ending in IO mentioned in Rule 47.

RULE 49**(..E/I)****CHANGE A FINAL 'E' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'I'**

In words derived from the Italian ending in E in the singular, substitute **I** for the **E**, to form the plural:

**SIGNORE-SIGNORI, CONVERSAZIONE-CONVERSAZIONI,
COGNOSCENTE-COGNOSCENTI, FRATE-FRATI,
DILLETANTE-DILLETANTI & CARABINIERE-CARABINIERI** etc.

There are too many words in the English language ending in E to list the exceptions to this Rule.

RULE 50**(..+I)****ADD 'I' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **I** to the end of various loaned foreign singulars to form the plural, as with:

**GARDA-GARDAI, APPARATCHIK-APPARATCHIKI, MIR-MIRI,
DRACHMA-DRACHMAI, STOA-STOAI, SIGNOR-SIGNORI,
MONSIGNOR-MONSIGNORI, FASCIST-FASCISTI & TRIUMVIR-TRIUMVIRI** etc.

These are loaned from Irish, Russian (2), Greek(2), Italian(3) and Latin respectively.

RULE 51**(..+IM)****ADD 'IM' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Many Hebrew words have entered the English language with their properly formed plurals, such words add **IM** to the end to make the plural form, such as:

**CHERUB-CHERUBIM, KIBBUTZ-KIBBUTZIM,
SERAPH-SERPAPHIM & GOY-GOYIM** etc.

Do not add **IM** to any Jewish or Yiddish word willy-nilly, it does not work for **BAGEL, RABBI, SCHMUCK** or **MITZVAH** etc

RULE 52**(..S/I)****CHANGE A FINAL 'S' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'I'**

Change a final **S** in the Greek singular to **I** to form the plural, as with:

**DROMOS-DROMOI, RHOMBOS-RHOMBOI STAMNOS-STAMNOI
& XYSTOS-XYSTOI**

But for EPHEBOS see Rule 97 or for OS (Rule 69) or COS (probably Rule 4 or 5)

RULE 53**(..O/INES)****CHANGE A FINAL 'O' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'INES'**

Change the final **O** in Latin singulars to **INES** to form the plural, specifically with those words ending with GO, as:

**IMAGO-IMAGINES, IMERTIGO-IMPERTIGINES, LENTIGO-LENTIGINES,
VERTIGO-VERTIGINES**

But not such words as **CARGO, LOGO, SAGO** or **INDIGO**
But also with apply this rule to the following which do not end GO:

TESTUDO-TESTUDINES & TURBO-TURBINES

TURBINES here refers to members of a tropical genus of gastropods *TURBO* and not to the plural of TURBINE (Rule 2)

RULE 54**(..+N)****ADD 'N' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **N** to the end of certain singulars to form the plural, as with

**EE-EEN & FEDAYEE-FEDAYEEN, HOSE-HOSEN,
TORTE-TORTEN & SCHNECKE-SCHNECKEN**

These are respectively derived from Scottish, Arabic, Old English, German & North American

RULE 55**(..+NES)****ADD 'NES' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **NES** to the end of loaned Latin singulars to form the plural, as with:

TYRO-TYRONES, PULMO-PULMONES, UMBO-UMBONES & MUCRO-MUCRONES

RULE 56**(..+A)****ADD 'A' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

To form the plural add an **A** to the end of the singular in words derived or loaned from Latin (the first five), Greek, Bulgarian & Finnish in these specific examples:

ANTIFIX-ANTIFIXA, CORNU-CORNUA, EJECT-EJECTA, EGEST-EGESTA, VAS-VASA, SOUVLAKI-SOUVLAKIA, LEV-LEVA & MARKKA-MARKKAA

These again have to be learnt and this rule cannot be applied to words with similar endings such as: **CRUCIFIX, GNU, SECT, VEST, GAS, KHAKI, MAGLEV** or **CHUKKA**.

RULE 57**(..+A..)****ADD A MEDIAL 'A' TO THE SINGULAR**

The Latin ending **AE** can be derived from some singular forms ending in **E** by adding a penultimate **A**, as with

STELE-STELAE, GNOME-GNOMAE, AGAPE-AGAPAE & COTYLE-COTYLAE

but not all English words ending in **E**, like:- **UKULELE, SYNDROME & STYLE** (Rule 2)

RULE 58**(..+E..)****ADD A MEDIAL 'E' TO THE SINGULAR**

Add a penultimate **E** to the Greek singular ending in **S** to make **ES** to form the plural, as with:

ERINYS-ERINYES, STIRPS-STIRPES & NYCTALOPS-NYCTALOPES etc.

RULE 59**(..+AE)****ADD 'AE' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **AE** to the end of a word, such as:-

HOMERID-HOMERIDAE & PHANEROGAM-PHANEROGAMAE

RULE 60**(..A/E)****CHANGE A FINAL 'A' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'E'**

Change a final **A** in loaned Italian singulars to **E** to form the plural, as with:

LIRA-LIRE, SIGNORA-SIGNORE, SIGNORINA-SIGNORINE, SICILIANA-SICILIANE
SUCCUBA-SUCCUBE, BALLERINA-BALLERINE, LOGGIA-LOGGIE

RULE 61**(..E/A)****CHANGE A FINAL 'E' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'A'**

The opposite of the previous rule. Change a final **E** in the singular to **A** to form the plural, as with:-

SPORANGIOLE-SPORANGIOLA, ANIMALCULE-ANIMALCULA,
OPUSCULE-OPUSCULA

RULE 62**(..A/I)****CHANGE A FINAL 'A' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'I'**

Change a final **A** in the Irish, Bulgarian and Italian singulars below, to **I** to form the plural, as

GARDA-GARDI, STOTINKA-STOTINKI, VEDUTISTA-VEDUTISTI
& ZASTRUGA-ZASTRUGI

RULE 63**(..+IA)****ADD 'IA' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **IA** to the singular ending **AL**, to get a general plural form as in:

CALCAR-CALCARIA, LUPERCAL-LUPERCALIA,
GENITAL-GENITALIA & REAL-REALIA

This does not work for **CAPITAL, HOSPITAL, RECITAL** or **VITAL** or even **DIGITAL** (Rule 2)

RULE 64**(..+IE)****ADD 'IE' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Adding IE to the end of a singular occurs in one marvellous word, which happens to be a Russian word and means a type of fur seal from the Aleutian Islands, namely:

SEECATCH-SEECATCHIE**RULE 65****(..E/IA)****CHANGE A FINAL 'E' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'IA'**

Change a final **E** in the Latin singular to **IA** to form the plural, as with:

**MARE-MARIA, QUALE-QUALIA, REGALE-REGALIA, SEDILE-SEDILIA
GENERALE-GENERALIA & ULNARE-ULNARIA**

RULE 66**(..+AU)****ADD 'AU' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Our Celtic forefathers, the Welsh, Irish and Scots have given us many words and strange endings. To form the plural in Welsh add **AU** to the singular form as in

EISTEDFODD-EISTEDFODDAU

Both the singular and plural are well known amongst those who obviously speak Welsh, those who live in Wales and those who love poetry and singing.

RULE 67**(..+ER)****ADD 'ER' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **ER** to the end of Germanic derived singular words to form the plural, as with:

**CHILD-CHILDER, LIED-LIEDER, WUNDERKIND-WUNDERKINDER & NUNATAK-
NUNATAKER**

Obviously the normal plural for **CHILD** is **CHILDREN** (see Rule 19)

NB: In English we come across this ending in the compound word KINDERGARTEN, which is widely used in English for a nursery-school, from the German words KINDER meaning children and GARTEN meaning garden.

RULE 68**(..+RE..)****ADD A MEDIAL 'RE' TO THE SINGULAR**

In another version of Latin S endings one adds an **RE** before the S, as with :-

VIS-VIRES**RULE 69****(..+SA)****ADD 'SA' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

When a very short Latin word ends in S add **SA** as in:-

OS-OSSA

This rule does not apply to the words **AS**, **IS** or **US**, none of which have plural noun forms

RULE 70**(..+AS)****ADD 'AS' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **AS** to the end of a loaned Old English singular to make the plural, as in:-

SCOP-SCOPAS**RULE 71****(..+TE..)****ADD A MEDIAL 'TE' TO THE SINGULAR**

A final **S** in Latin singulars occasionally take **TE** before the S to form the plural, as with:

GENS-GENTES & PONS-PONTES

NB: Please refer to Rule 268 in the section on Phrases and Expressions for this plural formation in combination.

RULE 72**(..-I)****DROP 'I' FROM THE END OF THE WORD**

Drop a final **I** in the Arabic singular to form the plural, as with

DJINNI-DJINN

NB: There are many variations of the singular, see the following Rule 73, and Rules 107 & 108, but the plurals are consistent in all ending with NN

RULE 73**(..-EE)****DROP 'EE' FROM THE END OF THE WORD**

Drop a final **EE** in the Arabic singular to form the plural, as with

JINNEE-JINN

See note above.

RULE 74**(..EP/IPE..)****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'EP' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'IPE'**

If a word ends EPS change the **EP** in the Latin singular to **IPE** to form the plural, as with

FORCEPS-FORCIPES

This is a perfectly acceptable plural but unusual. The more commonly used plurals of **FORCEPS** are **FORCEPS** (Rule 1) or **FORCEPSES** (Rule 3)

RULE 75**(..F/VEN)****CHANGE A FINAL 'F' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'VEN'**

With a possible combination of Rules 9 and 17, change terminal **F** to **VEN**, as with

ERF-ERVEN

RULE 76**(..ID/A)****CHANGE A FINAL 'ID' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'A'**

An interesting plural is formed when **ID** is changed to **A** in this sole case:

SPERMATAZOID-SPERMATAZOA

This is an alternative spelling of the singular of SPERMATAZOOM, which also has the same plural (see Rule 37)

RULE 77**(..UR/ORA)****CHANGE A FINAL 'UR' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'ORA'**

Change the ending **UR** in the singular to **ORA** to form the plural, as in

FEMUR-FEMORA

but not with **LEMUR** (Rule 2)

RULE 78**(..Y/IA)****CHANGE A FINAL 'Y' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'IA'**

Change a final **Y** in the Greek singular to **IA** to form the plural, as with:

ORGY-ORGIA

Although **ORGIES** following Rule 7 is equally correct.

RULE 79**(..Y/ICE)****CHANGE A FINAL 'Y' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'ICE'**

Change **Y** at the end of a word to **ICE**

BODY-BODICE

The plural word now means the close fitting upper part of a woman's dress, or an inner stiffened garment, but was the original plural of **BODY** and is only included here for entertainment value.

RULE 80**(..+ESS..+S)****ADD A MEDIAL 'ESS' AND ADD AN 'S'
TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

In the English title abbreviation add **ESS** in the middle and another **S** at the end to make the abbreviation plural, as in

MR-MESSRS

Although MR is an abbreviation for MISTER, it cannot take a simple English plural form of an added S (Rule 2) as this would make MRS which itself is an abbreviation of MISTRESS, the feminine married title. Therefore for addressing a number of MISTERS on letter heads we take the French abbreviation of MESSIEURS (see following Rule 81) which is MESSRS.

RULE 81**(..ON/ES..+S)****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'ON' TO 'ES' AND
ADD A FINAL 'S' TO THE SINGULAR**

In the masculine form of this title in French, the singular changes from the full word by replacing a medial **ON** with **ES** and adding a final **S** to make the plural:-

MONSIEUR-MESSIEURS

As before noted, although in English we use the abbreviated form of the plural, we do not use the abbreviated form of the French singular, which is simply the letter M.

RULE 82**(..A/ES..+ES)****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'A' TO 'ES' AND
ADD A FINAL 'ES' TO THE SINGULAR**

Again we also use a French plural when addressing ladies by their married titles. This rule changes the medial **A** of the singular to **ES** and an additional **ES** is added at the end.

MADAM-MESDAMES

NB: For one meaning of MADAM as in "She is a right little madam!" the plural is formed by Rule 2 an added S, as in "They are right little madams!"

RULE 83**(..A/ES..+S)****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'A' TO 'ES' AND
ADD A FINAL 'S' TO THE SINGULAR**

When using feminine French titles change a medial **A** to **ES** and add **S** at the end, for instance:-

MADAME-MESDAMES, MADAMOISELLE-MESDAMOISELLES

Always be careful to change the correct A as MADESMOISELLES is not a word, either in English or French. Incidentally the English equivalent MISS always follows Rule 3 and becomes MISSES which should not be confused with MISSIS or MISSUS, diminutives of MISTRESS. MS is often used instead of either MRS or MISS before the name of a woman, to avoid showing whether she is married or unmarried. The plural of MS is MSS, which is also the plural of MS a common abbreviation of manuscript. Confused? You will be.

RULE 84**(..ER/RES..)****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'ER' TO 'RES' IN THE SINGULAR**

Change a medial **ER** in Latin singulars to **RES** to form the plural, as with:

PATERFAMILIAS-PATRESFAMILIAS, MATERFAMILIAS-MATRESFAMILIAS**RULE 85****(..+S..+S)****ADD A MEDIAL 'S' AND A FINAL 'S' TO THE SINGULAR**

Add an S in the middle and an S at the end of this French word for policeman, which has entered the English vernacular:-

GENDARME-GENSDARMES**RULE 86****(..+AMENTA)****ADD 'AMENTA' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add AMENTA to the singular:-

EJECT-EJECTAMENTA

This is the plural of second preference to the primary plural (see Rule 56) No other word does this, although **REJECTAMENTA** could be used as a secondary plural of REJECT. But certainly use only Rule 2 with words such as **ABJECT, OBJECT, PROJECT, SUBJECT** or **TRAJECT**. There is no such word as **OBJECTAMENTA** or **SUBJECTAMENTA**

RULE 87**(..+ATA)****ADD 'ATA' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **ATA** to the end of a loaned Greek singular ending in M to make the plural, as with:-

MIASM-MIASMATA, PLASMODESM-PLASMODESMATA

(Compare with Rule 43)

RULE 88**(..+TI)****ADD 'TI' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **TI** to the end of Italian singulars to form the plural, as with:

BANDIT-BANDITTI, BUMMALO-BUMMALOTI

Note that nearly all words ending in TI are plurals, formed by Rules 31, 53, 55, 95 and this rule. **MUFTI** and **SPAGHETTI** are exceptions and are singular.

RULE 89**(..+IT..)****ADD MEDIAL 'IT' TO THE SINGULAR**

Before a final ES in the singular add a medial **IT** to form the plural, as:

FOMES-FOMITES, LIMES-LIMITES, STIPES-STIPITES, SATELLES-SATELLITES

These are unusual, so words like **PYRITES, RITES, PHENGITES** and **SORITES** do not have singulars which are **PYRES, RES, PHENGES** or **SORES**

RULE 90**(..-UM)****DROP 'UM' FROM THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Drop a final **UM** in the Italian plural formed from the Latin plural LATIFUNDIA, as with

LATIFUNDIUM-LATIFUNDI

RULE 91**(..-US)****DROP 'US' FROM THE END OF THE SINGULAR**Drop a final **US** in the Greek singular to form the plural, as with**GASTROCNEMIUS-GASTROCNEMI****RULE 92****(..E/UR)****CHANGE A FINAL 'E' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'UR'**In a German loan word change final **E** in singular to **UR** in the plural, as with:-**VALKYRIE-VALKYRIUR****RULE 93****(..ION/A)****CHANGE A FINAL 'ION' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'A'**Change a final **ION** to **A****DEJECTION-DEJECTA****RULE 94****(..TION/DIA)****CHANGE A FINAL 'TION' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'DIA'**Change a final **TION** to **DIA****GAMMATION-GAMMADIA****RULE 95****(..LE/ULA)****CHANGE A FINAL 'LE' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'ULA'**Change a final **LE** in the Latin singular to **ULA** to form the plural, as with**OPUSCLE-OPUSCULA**

RULE 96**(..LE/ULI)****CHANGE A FINAL 'LE' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'ULI'**Change a final **LE** to **ULI****FASCICLE-FASCICULI****RULE 97****(..OS/I)****CHANGE A FINAL 'OS' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'I'**Change a final **OS** in the Greek singular to **I** to form the plural, as with**EPHEBOS-EPHEBI****RULE 98****(..UM/EN)****CHANGE A FINAL 'UM' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'EN'**Change a final **UM** to **EN** with this word:-**GYMNASIUM-GYMNASIEN****RULE 99****(..Y/IN)****CHANGE A FINAL 'Y' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'IN'**Change a final **Y** to **IN****EYE-EINE**

For other acceptable plurals of EYE see Rule 2 and Rules 106

RULE 100**(..+ON)****ADD 'ON' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add ON to the end:-

RAMS-RAMSON

RAMS here is a dialectal word for wild garlic, not the plural of RAM. RAMSON itself the plural of RAMS has a plural RAMSONS. Do not get this word confused with RANSOM.

This ends the easy section of plural formation Rules in the English language. The next section deals with plurals that are new words altogether from the singulars, and pronouns of various descriptions, before we return to the very difficult one-off singular-plurals. Stay with it and you will have soon mastered the English Language

THE RULES

for single singular nouns

PART 2 – NEW WORDS

(Nos.101-142)

RULE 101**(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

Before we cover more and more obscure rules of forming plurals from the singular forms of many other foreign loan words, it is important to note that some singular words in English have a totally different form in the plural, either wholly or in part. (The part which is common in the singular and plural remains highlighted in grey, the part that changes completely is in red).

For instance, the plural, as well as often complying with Rule 2, can also be a totally different word, i.e:

PERSON - PEOPLE

There are certain circumstances when the plural form PEOPLE takes precedence over the plural form PERSONS. There are many examples of this specific rule in compound words such as:

**CRAFTSPERSON-CRAFTSPEOPLE, SPOKESPERSON-SPOKESPEOPLE,
PERSONPOWER-PEOPLEPOWER** etc.

With the use of the word PERSON being used instead of MAN or WOMAN to avoid illegal or unnecessary discrimination on the grounds of sex in such words as:

**CHURCHPERSON-CHURCHPEOPLE, TRADESPERSON-PEOPLE,
TRIBESPERSON-TRADESPEOPLE, WORKPERSON-WORKPEOPLE** etc.

you can assume that you can legitimately change the PERSON element into either PEOPLE, with new compounds such as **BARPERSON, CHAIRPERSON, POSTPERSON**, it is more likely to apply Rule 2.

The word **PEOPLE** itself can be also used as a collective singular and therefore can take an added S in its own plural **PEOPLES**, as in "The Peoples of the world" for instances

All examples of a complete change of word can only be learnt individually as no specific rule covers them all.

RULE 102**(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

An alternative to Rule 17 occurs with this word and its plural:-

OX-OWSEN

RULE 103

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Middle English forms still exist, especially in the bible, such as:

COW-KINE

This has derived from the Old English [CU] with its plural [CY], but do not bother to remember that!

RULE 104

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Another plural form which however is acceptable:

COW-KYE

RULE 105

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

And a third plural form of the same word:

COW-KY

But do not worry. Rule 2 also applies for a simpler and more commonly used plural, **COWS**. If you want to talk about COWS it is best to use that plural most of the time, apart from when you shouldn't!

NB: Please note that the word CATTLE is a group or collective plural noun describing bovine mammals of the genus BOS, which consists of OXEN, OWXSEN, COWS, KINE, BULLS, YAKS etc. Similar collective nouns such as CROCKERY and CUTLERY, which are singular, are dealt with in Appendix ??

RULE 106**(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

The plural of the word

EYE-EENas well as being **EYES** (Rule 2) and EYNE (Rule ?)**RULE 107****(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

Note and learn the following alternatives, where the plural is a new word, such as:

GENIE-GINN

There are many variations of spelling regarding this word, but the plural GINN or JINN is quite consistent, and should take precedence over GENIES and JINNIS, with the exception of Rule 108 below:

RULE 108**(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

And:

JINNI is JANN

The JANN are the least powerful order of JINN, but the singular of both JANN and JINN is the same (cf. Rule 72)

RULE 109**(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

Replace the word in the plural, as with:

EVET-EWFTES

By inference: EVET is an alternative spelling of EFT (a newt), and EWFTES is an alternative plural to EFTS (newts)

RULE 110**(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

Replace the word in the plural, as with:

FARCIN-FASHIONS

A Shakespearean plural of this obsolete word meaning a disease in horses. You are very unlikely to come across this, but do not confuse the meaning of FASHION-FASHIONS!!

RULE 111**(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

Replace the word in the plural, as with:

FARCY-FASHIONS

The correctly modern word FARCY for the chronic glanders disease, especially in horses, can take the Shakespearean plural, the same note as for Rule 110 about committing this Rule to memory applies.

RULE 112**(NEW WORD)****REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL**

Replace a third person singular instruction by its third person plural, as from the Latin:

EXITS-EXEUNT

NB: This is commonly used as a theatre or performing arts term, 'He leaves the stage/set/shot'(EXITS) and 'They leave the stage/set/shot'(EXEUNT) but can be used in other contexts. See also under Rule 145

THE RULES

for single singular nouns

PART 2 – NEW WORDS cont.

PRONOUNS

With most English pronouns the plural forms are quite different to the singular forms: And in declining the pronouns English produces many different plurals. Because they differ according to what case they are, I have listed the personal pronouns accordingly as **NOMINATIVE**(Subject), **ACCUSATIVE**(Object), & **GENITIVE**(Possessive). In addition there are also some **DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS** in this section of the **RULES**.

NOMINATIVE PERSONAL PRONOUNS

RULE 113

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Replace the first person singular with a new word in the plural, as with:

I - WE

WE can be used as the nominative singular by the British Monarch and as an affectation!! Similarly **US**, **OUR**, **OURS**, **OURSELF** become singular pronouns without the need for any plural as there is only ever one of them at a time.

RULE 114

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Replace the second person singular with a new word in the plural, as with:

YOU - YE

YE is an old form of the plural.
In modern English the usual plural for **YOU** is the same word **YOU**

RULE 115 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Replace the second person singular with a new word in the plural, as with:

THOU - YE

THOU and **YE** as personal pronouns are very rarely used nowadays, but they are included in this primer, along with **THEE**, **THY** and **THINE**, because they still have a place in the English language and literature. (see Rules 160, 166 & 167)

RULE 116 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Replace the third person singular masculine with a new word in the plural, as with:

HE-THEY

RULE 117 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Replace the third person singular feminine with a new word in the plural, as with:

SHE-THEY

RULE 118 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Replace the third person singular neuter with a new word in the plural, as with:

IT-THEY

ACCUSATIVE PERSONAL PRONOUNS

RULE 119

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Where the personal pronouns are in the objective or accusative case, they take on completely different words in their plural form, as follows:-

ME - US

RULE 120

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Similarly:-

THEE - YOU

RULE 121

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Similarly:-

HIM - THEM

RULE 122

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Similarly:-

HER - THEM

RULE 123

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

Similarly:-

IT - THEM

GENITIVE or DATIVE PERSONAL PRONOUNS

RULE 124 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

MINE-OURS

RULE 125 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

MINE-OURN

Older and dialectal form of plural

RULE 126 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

THINE-YOURS

YOURS in the singular does not change in the plural form

RULE 127 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

THINE-YOURN

Older and dialectal form of plural

RULE 128 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

HIS-THEIRS

RULE 129 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

HERS-THEIRS

RULE 130 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

ITS-THEIRS

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

This is the only occasion that single adjectives are included in this book, as they are linked with their pronouns and also do decline in the plural.

RULE 131 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

MY-OUR

RULE 132 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

THY-YOUR

RULE 133 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

HIS-THEIR

RULE 134 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

HER-THEIR

RULE 135 (NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

ITS-THEIR

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

RULE 136

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

MYSELF-OURSELVES

OURSELF is a back formation singular, used regally as a reflexive pronoun, similarly to WE, see under Rule 112. For YOURSELF and the formation of the proper plural use Rule 9

RULE 137

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

HIMSELF-THEMSELVES

RULE 138

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

HERSELF-THEMSELVES

RULE 139

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

ITSELF-THEMSELVES

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

RULE 140

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

THIS-THESE

For a variant on the plural see Rule 141 following

RULE 141

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

THAT-THOSE

For a variant on the plural see Rule 142 following

RULE 142

(NEW WORD)

REPLACE SINGULAR WITH A NEW WORD IN THE PLURAL

THAT-THO'

This is a Spenserian plural form.

THE RULES

for single singular nouns

PART 3 – ADDITIONS, SUBTRACTIONS & CHANGES

THE ONE-OFFS

(Nos.143-226)

RULE 143**(..S/R)****CHANGE 'S' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'R'**

An alternative plural to this demonstrative pronoun is formed by changing the S to an R, as in:

THIS-THIR

Thir is a Scottish dialectal variant of these for those of you who want to visit Scotland.

RULE 144**(..T/E)****CHANGE 'T' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'E'**

An alternative plural to this demonstrative pronoun is formed by changing the S to an E, as in:

THAT-THAE

Another Scottish dialectal variant. Thir twa plurals are only common where thae Scots come frae!

RULE 145**(..+N..)****ADD A MEDIAL 'N' TO THE SINGULAR**

Add a penultimate **N** to the Old English singulars to form the plural, as with

EYE-EYNE & FOE-FONE

Also in the Latin singular ending in **T** to form the plural, as with

MANET-MANENT

Strictly this is a third person plural instruction, as in the stage direction
'He/she remains on stage'(MANET) – 'They remain on stage'(MANENT)
Compare with Rule 112.

RULE 146**(..E/ON)****CHANGE 'E' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ON'**

An Old English plural formation, changes **E** to **ON**, as with

SHOE-SHOON

RULE 147**(..+W..+ES)****ADD MEDIAL 'W' AND FINAL 'ES' TO THE SINGULAR**

In this variation (otherwise Rule 2) add a medial **W** and a final **S** to the singular to form a rare plural of the word, as:-

EFT-EWFTES

Naturally because EFT also has the simple plural EFTS, this is the only example of this strange formation, therefore the rule never applies to **CLEFT, HEFT, THEFT** or **WEFT**

RULE 148**(..+GEN)****ADD 'GEN' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **GEN** to the end of a Northern English singular to form the plural, as with

LIG-LIGGEN

Do not apply this rule to **FIG, JIG** or **PIG** or any other word ending in **IG** for that matter

There now follows a Series of Rules which only have one example or are rarely applied. They are invariably borrowed from other languages, but as they do constitute part of the glossary of words in English dictionaries they are considered with their plural forms to be part of the English language, no matter how obscure or little used they are. In each case they are again indicated by Underlining those which are the sole plurals and Italics where the plural is a second or obscure preference.

They are in alphabetical order in categories of plural formation rather than in order of etymological sources.

The categories of plural dealt with, in order, are:

1. **ADDITIONAL LETTERS** to make the plural
2. **SUBTRACTION OF LETTERS** to make the plural
3. **CHANGE OF LETTERS** to make the plural
4. **COMBINATIONS OF ADDITIONAL, SUBTRACTION and CHANGE OF LETTERS** to make the plural

You need to be aware of these, but they are not really necessary for you to learn, to get by in everyday English! However English readers may find them either interesting or a total waste of time!

I. ADDITIONAL LETTERS

RULE 149 (..+ACH)

ADD 'ACH' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR

Add **ACH** to the end of a loaned Yiddish singular to make the plural, such as

SHTETL-SHTETLACH

This is a preferential plural, the secondary formation using the simple rule 2. For further complications regarding this word, which means a Jewish community in an Eastern European town or village, see under Rules 217 & 218

RULE 150 (..+AR)

ADD 'AR' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR

Add **AR** to a geological word meaning a bank or ridge of gravel, such as:-

AS-ASAR

No other geological word for a bank or ridge of gravel takes this obscure rule

RULE 151 (..+C)

ADD 'C' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR

Add **C** to the abbreviation **C**

C-CC

This is only relevant when **C** is an abbreviation for the word **CHAPTER**, **CC** therefore being the abbreviation of **CHAPTERS**. Otherwise **C** as a letter of the alphabet (Rule 5) or anything else does not comply with this rule. Not to be confused with **CC** which is an abbreviation of **CUBIC CENTIMETRE** which in the plural would be **CCS**.

RULE 152 (+..DEN)

ADD 'DEN' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR

Add **DEN** to the end of a loaned Latin singular to form the plural, as with

DISPRED-DIPSREDDEN

RULE 153 (+..EANNA)**ADD 'EANNA' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **EANNA** to the end of a loaned Irish singular to form the plural, as with

FEIS-FEISEANNA

RULE 154 (..+EEN)**ADD 'EEN' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **EEN** to the end of a loaned Arabic singular to form the plural, as with

FELLAH-FELLAHEEN

RULE 155 (..+HS)**ADD 'HS' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **HS** to end of singular, as with:

MEZUZA-MEZUZHHS

RULE 156 (..+IMS)**ADD 'IMS' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Alternatively one can also add a further **S** to the plural form achieved in Rule 51 for these words. Therefore add **IMS** to the singular

CHERUB-CHERUBIMS, SERAPH-SERAPHIMS

These plural forms come from the mistaken use of **CHERUBIM** and **SERAPHIM** as singulars.

RULE 157 (..+IN)**ADD 'IN' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **IN** to the end of a loaned Arabic singular to form the plural, as with

FELLAH-FELLAHIN, SERAPH-SERAPHIN

Alternative plurals to **FELLAH-FELLAHEEN** (Rule 154) and **SERAPH-SERAPHIM** (Rule 51)

RULE 158**ADD 'INS' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

One can also add a further S to the plural form of above, add **INS** to the singular

CHERUB-CHERUBINS, SERAPH-SERAPHINS

Alternative plurals to **CHERUB-CHERUBIM/S** and **SERAPH-SERAPHIM/S**

RULE 159**ADD 'M' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

M=MM, SEPHARDI=SEPHARDIM

RULE 160**ADD 'P' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

P=PP, SP.=SPP.

RULE 161**ADD 'Q' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **Q** to form a plural abbreviation from the Latin singular, as with

SQ-SQQ

Not strictly a word, but an abbreviation. Abbreviations are included as with MR. in Rule 80 as the correct abbreviated plural must be learnt and used.

RULE 162**ADD A MEDIAL 'Q' TO THE SINGULAR**

Add a medial **Q** to the singular of the abbreviation of the latin phrase *quantum vis* meaning 'as much as you wish', as in

QV-QQV

This can be written as Q.V. whence the plural is QQ.V. being the same rule.

RULE 163**ADD 'R' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

add **R** to the end of a Danish singular to form the plural, as with

KRONE-KRONER

RULE 164**ADD 'T' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **T** to the end of a Lapp singular to form the plural, as with

SAMI-SAMIT

And with certain Yiddish derived words, see next Rule.

RULE 165**ADD A MEDIAL 'T' TO THE SINGULAR**

Add a medial T to the Yiddish derived word for unleavened bread in the form of large square crackers, traditionally eaten at Passover, if you have spelled it :

MATZOH-MATZOTH

These are tricky rules as the singulars can be spelled in different ways, such as MATZO, MATZOH, MATZA, MATZAH, and the plurals formed can be spelled in similarly different ways, as with MATZOTH, MATZOS, MATZOT, MATZAS, MATZAHS. Therefore see Rule 2 adding S, Rule 164 MATZO-MATZOT, Rule 169 MATZO-MATZOTH, and Rule 189 MATZOH-MATZOT

RULE 166**ADD 'TAS' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **TAS** to singular form, as with:-

SCEAT-SCEATTAS

RULE 167**ADD 'TE' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

add

CANZONET-CANZONETTE

RULE 168**ADD 'TES' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **TES** to Greek singular to form the plural, as:-

SCAZON-SCAZONTES

RULE 169**ADD 'TH' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **TH** to the end of a Yiddish singular to form the plural, as with:-

(..+TH)³⁵

MATZO-MATZOTH

See note after Rule 165.

RULE 170**ADD 'TSY' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **TSY** to the end of a Russian singular to form the plural, as with

(..+TSY)³⁷

DUKHOBOR-DUKHOBORTSY

RULE 171**ADD 'YAT' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR**

Add **YAT** to the end of an Arabic singular to form the plural, as with

RUBAI-RUBAIYAT

RULE 172**ADD A MEDIAL 'YOT' TO THE SINGULAR**

Before a final **H** in the Hebrew singular add **YOT** to form the plural, as with

MISHNAH-MISHNAYOTH

RULE 173

ADD 'YOTH' TO THE END OF THE SINGULAR

MISHNA=MISHNA**YOTH**

II. CHANGING LETTERS

RULE 174

CHANGE 'A' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'HE'

Change a final **A** in loaned Italian singular to **HE** to form the plural, as with:

TEDESCA-TEDESCHE

RULE 175

CHANGE 'A' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'OR'

Change a final **A** in the Swedish singular to **OR** to form the plural, as with

(..A/OR)⁴⁵

KRONA-KRONOR

RULE 176

CHANGE 'A' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'OT'

Change a final **A** in the Hebrew singular to **OT** to form the plural, as with

(..A/OT)⁴⁶

AGORA-AGOROT, YESHIVA-YESHIVOT

RULE 177

CHANGE A MEDIAL 'A' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'OTH'

Change the **A** before an H in the Hebrew singular to **OTH** to form the plural, as with

MITZVAH-MITZVOTH

RULE 178

CHANGE 'A' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'OTH'

Change a final **A** in the Hebrew singular to **OTH** to form the plural, as with

(..A/OTH)⁴⁷

MEZUA-MEZUZOTH

RULE 179

CHANGE 'A' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'UR'

Change a final **A** in the Icelandic singular to **UR** to form the plural, as with

(..A/UR)⁴⁸

KRONA-KRONUR

RULE 180**CHANGE 'A' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'Y'**

Change a final **A** in the Czech singular to **Y** to form the plural, as with

(..A/Y)⁴⁹

DUMKA-DUMKY

RULE 181**CHANGE 'AH' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'IN'**

Change a final **AH** in the Hebrew singular to **IN** to form the plural, as with:-

(..AH/IN)⁵⁰

TEFILLAH-TEFILLIN

RULE 182**CHANGE 'AL' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'IS'**

Change **AL** to **IS** at end of Portuguese singular to form the plural, as

(..AL/IS)⁵³

REAL-REIS

RULE 183**CHANGE 'AR' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ROTH'**

Change a final **AR** in the Hebrew singular to **ROTH** to form the plural, as with

(..AR/ROTH)⁵³

SHOFAR-SHOFROTH

RULE 184**CHANGE A MEDIAL 'B' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'A'**

SABME-SAAME

RULE 185**CHANGE 'E' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'OES'****BASTINADE-BASTINADOES****RULE 186****CHANGE 'EL' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'LOCH'****KNAIDEL-KANIDLOCH****RULE 187****CHANGE A MEDIAL 'ELE' IN THE SINGULAR TO 'LO'****METAPELET-METAPLOT****RULE 188****CHANGE 'ES' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'OSIM'**Change a final **ES** in the Yiddish singular to **OSIM** to form the plural, as with**SHAMMES-SHAMMOSIM****RULE 189****CHANGE 'H' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'T'**

Change the H at the end of a Yiddish singular to T in the plural

MATZOH-MATZOT

See note after Rule 165.

RULE 190**CHANGE 'I' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ESE'**

Change

BENGALI-BENGALESE

RULE 191

CHANGE 'IAN' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ESE'

ALBIGENSI**IAN**=ALBIGENSE**ESE**

RULE 192

CHANGE 'IK' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'X'

Change a final **IK** in the singular to **X** to form the plural, as with

RE**IK**-RE**X**

RULE 193

CHANGE 'ING' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ES'

UNDERCLOTH**ING**=UNDERCLOTH**ES**

RULE 194

CHANGE 'IO' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'E'

PULVILL**IO**=PULVILL**E**

RULE 195

CHANGE 'O' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'A'

BRACC**IO**=BRACC**A**

RULE 196

CHANGE 'O' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'HI'

Change a final **o** in the Italian singular to **HI** to form the plural, as with

ALBERG**O**-ALBERG**HI**

RULE 197

CHANGE 'PH' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'VES'

DELPH=DELVES**RULE 198****CHANGE 'S' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'A'**

Change **S** to **A** at end of Low Latin singular to form the derived plural, as

(..S/A)

REALIS-REALIA**RULE 199****CHANGE 'S' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'TA'**

Change a final **S** in the Greek singular to **TA** to form the plural, as with

TERAS-TERATA**RULE 200****CHANGE 'S' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'TIA'**

Change a final **S** in the Latin singular to **TIA** to form the plural, as with

ENS-ENTIA**RULE 201****CHANGE 'U' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'I'**

Change a final **U** in the Romanian singular to **I** to form the plural, as with

LEU-LEI**RULE 202****CHANGE 'UGH' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'W'****ENOUGH=ENOW****RULE 203**

CHANGE 'W' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'USE'**MEW=MEUSE****RULE 204****CHANGE 'W' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'VA'****LEW=LEVA****RULE 205****CHANGE 'WAY' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'UEYSES'****NORWAY=NORUEYSES****RULE 206****CHANGE 'Y' AT THE END OF THE SINGULAR TO 'I'**Change a final **Y** in the Romanian singular to **I** to form the plural, as with**LEY-LEI****RULE 207****CHANGE INITIAL 'ER' OF THE SINGULAR TO 'ARE'**Change initial **ER** in the Arabic singular to **ARE** to form the plural, as with**ERG-AREG****RULE 208****CHANGE INITIAL 'FA' OF THE SINGULAR TO 'AF'**Change initial **FA** in the Arabic singular to **AF** to form the plural, as with**FALAJ-AFLAJ****RULE 209**

CHANGE INITIAL 'LI' OF THE SINGULAR TO 'EMA'

Change initial **LI** in the Swazi singular to **EMA** to form the plural, as with

LILANGENI-EMALANGENI

RULE 210**CHANGE INITIAL 'MO' OF THE SINGULAR TO 'BA'**

MOSENJI=BASENJI

III. COMBINATIONS OF ADDING, SUBTRACTING & CHANGING LETTERS

RULE 211

ADD MEDIAL 'A' AND ADD FINAL 'ES'

Add
MEW=MEAWES

RULE 212

ADD MEDIAL 'E' AND ADD FINAL 'ER'

Add
LAND=LAENDER

RULE 213

ADD MEDIAL 'E' AND ADD FINAL 'IR'

Add
AS=AESIR

RULE 214

ADD INITIAL 'IN' AND ADD FINAL 'IA'

Add
SIGN=INSIGNIA

RULE 215

ADD MEDIAL 'V' AND ADD FINAL 'L'

Add
VL=VVLL

RULE 216

DROP MEDIAL 'A' AND ADD FINAL 'E'

Drop
SPRINGHAASPRINGHASE

RULE 217

DROP MEDIAL 'E' AND ADD FINAL 'ACH'

Drop

SHTETEL=SHTETLACH**RULE 218****DROP MEDIAL 'E' AND ADD FINAL 'S'**

Drop

SHTETEL=SHTETLS**RULE 219****DROP MEDIAL 'N' AND ADD FINAL 'ION'**

Drop

PENNILL=PENILLION**RULE 220****CHANGE MEDIAL 'A' TO 'Ä' AND ADD FINAL 'E'**

Change

BAND=BÄNDE**RULE 221****CHANGE MEDIAL 'A' TO 'Ä' AND ADD FINAL 'ER'**

Change

LAND=LÄNDER**RULE 222****CHANGE MEDIAL 'B' TO 'Ä' AND ADD FINAL 'T'**

Change

SABMI=SAAMIT**RULE 223****CHANGE MEDIAL 'Ó' TO 'O' AND ADD FINAL 'ES'**

Change

REJÓN=REJONES**RULE 224**

CHANGE MEDIAL 'O' TO 'Ö' AND ADD FINAL 'ES'

Change

HELDENTENOR=HELDENTENÖRE

RULE 225

CHANGE MEDIAL 'A' TO 'E' AND FINAL 'EL' TO 'LACH'

Change

KNAIDEL=KNEIDLACH

RULE 226

CHANGE INITIAL 'RO' TO 'AR' AND ADD A MEDIAL 'A'

Change initial **RO** to **AR** and add a penultimate **A** to form the plural, as

ROTL-ARTAL

THE RULES

HYPHENATED COMPOUND WORDS

(Nos.227-243)

There are many hyphenated compound words in English and some of them do have different rules of forming the plurals. They are usually combinations of other rules so far dealt with in this primer but nevertheless must be learnt. In hyphenated words, phrases or expressions, the elements of the compound word are referred to as first, second, third, middle or last. Many French and Latin expressions which have come into the English vocabulary are in this section and there are many many other combinations and compound rules not dealt with here. So the following are just a few examples. The Rule is symbolised in square brackets.

RULE 227

{Rules 2-2}

[...]

NO CHANGE

Do nothing. Neither element of the hyphenated compound word changes in the plural, for instance in the following three French expressions used in English the plural is the same as the singular:-

**AVANT-COURIER=AVANT-COURIER, LOUIS-D'OR=LOUIS-D'OR,
PINCE-NEZ=PINCE-NEZ etc.**

Rule 227 is referred to as being Rule 2-2 [...]

RULE 227A

{Rules 2-2-2}

[...-...]

NO CHANGE

Do nothing. Neither element of the hyphenated compound word changes in the plural, for instance in the following three French expressions used in English the plural is the same as the singular:-

POT-AU-FEU=POT-AU-FEU etc.

Rule 227A is referred to as being Rule 1-1-1 [...-...]

RULE 228

{Rules 2-1}

[...+S]

ADD 'S' TO END OF LAST ELEMENT ONLY

This is the normal way of forming the plural in the majority of hyphenated compound words

**IN-LAW=IN-LAWS, ADD-ON=ADD-ONS, HAS-BEEN=HAS-BEENS
SWIMMING-BATH=SWIMMING-BATHS, TO-DO=TO-DOS, X-RAY=X-RAYS,
CARRY-ON=CARRY-ONS, MEZZO-SOPRANO=MEZZO-SOPRANOS
MAN-EATER=MAN-EATERS, MAN-HOUR=MAN-HOURS etc.**

NB: The plural of MAN-HOUR is not MEN-HOURS, but see rule ?? for other MAN- compounds. The "Carry On..." films can be referred to as CARRY ONS, CARRY-ONS mean ...Note CARRYING-ON which complies with the next important Rule 229. Similarly study the next rule for more about the IN-LAWS.

RULE 228A

{Rules 2-2-1}

[.....+S]**ADD 'S' TO END OF LAST ELEMENT ONLY**

This is the normal way of forming the plural in the majority of hyphenated compound words

CHAR-À-BANC=CHAR-À-BANCS****

etc.

RULE 228B

{Rules 2-2-2-1}

[.....+S]**ADD 'S' TO END OF LAST ELEMENT ONLY**

This is the normal way of forming the plural in the majority of hyphenated compound words

WILL-O'-THE-WISP=WILL-O'-THE-WISPS****

etc.

RULE 229

{Rules 1-2}

[..+S-..]**ADD 'S' TO END OF FIRST ELEMENT ONLY**

These examples must be learnt as following Rule 228 would be incorrect

BILLET-DOUS=BILLETS-DOUS,
GOVERNOR-GENERAL=GOVERNORS-GENERAL, PASSER-BY=PASSERS-BY,
CARRYING-ON=CARRYS-ON, ADJUTANT-GENERAL=ADJUTANTS-GENERAL
KNIGHT-ERRANT=KNIGHTS-ERRANT, TABLE-D'HÔTE=TABLES-D'HÔTE etc.

All the above only comply with this rule, but some such as:

RIGHT-OF-WAY=RIGHTS-OF-WAY, WILL-O-THE-WISP=WILLS-O-THE-WISP
& CHAR-À-BANC=CHARS-À-BANC etc.

Do comply with other rules as well, see Rules 228 and 230.

RULE 229A

{Rules 1-2-2}

[..+S-...]**ADD 'S' TO END OF FIRST ELEMENT ONLY**

These examples must be learnt as following Rule 228A would be incorrect

FATHER-IN-LAW=FATHERS-IN-LAW, MOTHER-IN-LAW=MOTHERS-IN-LAW,
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW=DAUGHTERS-IN-LAW, BROTHER-IN-LAW=BROTHERS-IN-LAW etc

There are many other hyphenated compound expressions which follow this rule uniquely, such as:

AIDE-DE-CAMP=AIDES-DE-CAMP, FLEUR-DE-LIS=FLEURS-DE-LIS,
AUTO-DE-FÉ=AUTOS-DE-FÉ,

All the above only comply with this rule, but some such as:

RIGHT-OF-WAY=RIGHTS-OF-WAY & CHAR-À-BANC=CHARS-À-BANC etc.

For an alternative plural of the latter see Rule 230A

RULE 229B

{Rules 1-2-2-2}

[..+S-...-...]**ADD 'S' TO END OF FIRST ELEMENT ONLY**

As with:

WILL-O-THE-WISP=WILLS-O-THE-WISP

But also see 228B which can also be used in this case.

RULE 230

{Rules 2-2}

[..+S-..+S]**ADD 'S' TO END OF BOTH ELEMENTS**

These examples must be learnt as following Rule 228 would be incorrect

CARTE-BLANCHE=CARTES-BLANCHES, KNIGHT-BANNERET= KNIGHTS-BANNERETS, etc.

Note that KNIGHT-ERRANT followed Rule 229 while KNIGHT-BANNERET follows this rule.

RULE 230A

{Rules 2-2}

[..+S-..+S]**ADD 'S' TO END OF FIRST & LAST ELEMENTS**

These examples must be learnt as following Rule 228 would be incorrect

TÊTE-À-TÊTE=TÊTES-À-TÊTES,
& **CHAR-À-BANC=CHARS-À-BANCS** etc.

CHAR-A-BANC, sometimes spelled as one word CHARABANC (apply rule 2) can take all three rules 228A, 229A & 230A for a correct plural.

RULE 231

{Rules 1-3}

[...+ES]**ADD 'ES' TO END OF LAST ELEMENT ONLY**

There are also many examples which comply with this hyphenated compound rule, such as:

POST-ECHO=POST-ECHOES, NO-NO=NO-NOES etc.

RULE 232

{Rules 1-5}

[...+'S]**ADD 'S' TO END OF LAST ELEMENT ONLY**

Such as:

NO-NO=NO-NO'S etc.

But see previous rule.

RULE 233

[...Y/IES]

{Rules 1-7}

CHANGE 'Y' TO 'IES' AT END OF LAST ELEMENT ONLY

As with:

DEATH-DUTY=DEATH-DUTIES, NAMBY-PAMBY=NAMBY-PAMBIES
& PRETTY-PRETTY=PRETTY-PRETTIES etc.

RULE 234

[...F/VES]

{Rules 1-9}

CHANGE 'F' TO 'VES' AT END OF LAST ELEMENT ONLY

As with this example:

BULL-BEEF=BULL-BEEVES

RULE 235

[...FF/VES]

{Rules 1-11}

CHANGE 'FF' TO 'VES' AT END OF LAST ELEMENT ONLY

As with this example:

TORCH-STAFF=TORCH-STAVES

RULE 236

{Rules 1-20}

[...A/E..]

CHANGE 'A' TO 'E' IN THE LAST ELEMENT ONLY

As with:

HE-MAN=HE-MEN**RULE 237**

{Rules 1-23}

[...OO/EE..]

CHANGE 'OO' TO 'EE' IN THE LAST ELEMENT ONLY

For example:

CROW'S-FOOT=CROW'S-FEET**RULE 238**

{Rules 1-24}

[...OUS/IC..]

CHANGE 'OUS' TO 'IC' IN THE LAST ELEMENT ONLY

With a few examples like:

BIRD-LOUSE=BIRD-LICE, PLANT-LOUSE=PLANT-LICE, SHEEP-LOUSE=SHEEP-LICE**RULE 239**

{Rules 1-New Rule}

[...L/UX]

CHANGE 'L' TO 'UX' IN THE LAST ELEMENT ONLY

This includes a new rule derived from French plural formation, change a final **L** for **UX**, which does not occur in single words in English but only in the compound:

PROCES-VERBAL=PROCES-VERBAUX

This new rule also occurs in the following Rule 240 with the French word CHEVAL, which like VERBAL, in its French context as above, is not used in the plural form in English.

RULE 240

{New Rule-Rule 1}

[..L/UX-...]

CHANGE 'L' TO 'UX' IN THE FIRST ELEMENT ONLY

As with:

CHEVAL-DE-FRISE=CHEVAUX-DE-FRISE

RULE 241

{Rules 20-1}

[..A/E...]**CHANGE 'A' TO 'E' IN THE FIRST ELEMENT ONLY**

This rule is applied to:

MAN-AT-ARMS=MEN-AT-ARMS, MAN-O'-WAR=MEN-O'-WAR

Also applies to the alternative spelling MAN-OF-WAR

RULE 242

{Rules 20-2}

[..A/E...+S]**CHANGE 'A' TO 'E' IN THE FIRST ELEMENT & ADD 'S' TO THE LAST ELEMENT**

This and the next rule are similar in structure to Rule 230, where both elements in a hyphenated compound word are pluralized, such as:

MAN-SERVANT=MEN-SERVANTS**RULE 243**

{Rules 20-18}

[..A/E...+REN]**CHANGE 'A' TO 'E' IN THE FIRST ELEMENT & ADD 'REN' TO THE LAST ELEMENT**

As above:

MAN-CHILD=MEN-CHILDREN, WOMAN-CHILD=WOMEN-CHILDREN

THE RULES

PHRASES & EXPRESSIONS

**Consisting of more than one word,
but taken as a single entity**

(Nos. 244-274)

As with the hyphenated compound words, separate plural-formation rules apply to different structures of phrases and expressions consisting of two or more words. In these phrases or expressions, the words used are referred to as first, second, third, middle or last.

Once again there are many French and Latin expressions which have come into the English vocabulary and are covered in this section, but not all possibilities and quirkinesses of the plural changes required in obscure foreign or dialectal phrases are included. So the following are just a few examples.

Each Rule is symbolized with each word of the phrase in parentheses.

RULE 244

{Rules (2)(1)}

(..)(..+S)**ADD 'S' TO END OF LAST WORD ONLY**

Additional **s** at end of first word and no change of last word in these singular phrases to form the plural, which derive from different languages, as with:-

**ALTER EGO=ALTER EGOS, MAGNUM BONUM= MAGNUM BONUMS,
LHASO APSO= LHASO APSOS, SHERIFF DEPUTE= SHERIFF DEPUTES,
PRIMA DONNA= PRIMA DONNAS & STILL LIFE= STILL LIFE**S**** etc.

Contrary to what you might expect please take note that with STILL LIFE, the plural is not **STILL LIVES**, which although the second word would be consistent with Rule 9, is incorrect.

RULE 245

{Rules (2)(1)(2)}

(..)(..+S)(..)**ADD 'S' TO END OF MIDDLE WORD ONLY**

Additional **s** at end of middle word and no change to either first or last word in this singular phrase to form the plural:-

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL=JUDGE ADVOCATES** GENERAL**

This phrase also complies with Rule 244, but this Rule takes preference

RULE 246**(..+S)(..)**

{Rules (1)(2)}

ADD 'S' TO END OF FIRST WORD ONLY

Additional **s** at end of first word and no change of last word in French singular phrase to form the plural, as with:-

**GRAND PRIX=GRANDS PRIX, COR ANGLAIS= CORs ANGLAIS,
OBJET D'ART= OBJETS D'ART, CONSUL GENERAL= CONSULS GENERAL** etc.

RULE 246A**(..+S)(..)(..)**

{Rules (1)(2)}

ADD 'S' TO END OF FIRST WORD ONLY

Additional **s** at end of first word and no change of the remaining two words in the phrase to form the plural, as with:-

**RITE OF PASSAGE= RITES OF PASSAGE, TOUR DE FORCE= TOURS DE FORCE
& PAIR OF KNICKERS= PAIRS OF KNICKERS** etc.

The last example PAIR OF KNICKERS or more strictly correct A PAIR OF KNICKERS is most important as a) the singular phrase contains a word that sounds plural, i.e KNICKERS and b) that word has no singular KNICKER, except in an adjectival form
There are hundreds of examples of these types of words which have in general to be expressed in the singular as PAIR OF or A PAIR OF (See Appendix 1). Some examples:-

**PAIR OF TROUSERS= PAIRS OF TROUSERS, PAIR OF COMPASSES= PAIRS OF COMPASSES,
PAIR OF BINOCULARS= PAIRS OF BINOCULARS,
PAIR OF SPECTACLES= PAIRS OF SPECTACLES, PAIR OF TIGHTS= PAIRS OF TIGHTS** etc.

Not to be confused with PAIR OF GLOVES, PAIR OF SOCKS or PAIR OF SHOES, where there is a singular GLOVE, SOCK & SHOE (This is all explained in the appropriate Appendices), although the phrase itself still complies with this Rule.

RULE 246B**(..+S)(..)(..)(..)**

{Rules (1)(2)}

ADD 'S' TO END OF FIRST WORD ONLY

Additional **s** at end of first word and no change in other words in the phrase, as with:-

RULE OF THE ROAD= RULES OF THE ROAD

RULE 247**(..+S)(..+S)**

{Rules (1)(1)}

ADD 'S' TO END OF ALL WORDSAdditional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase

OBJET TROUVE=OBJETS TROUVES, BRISÉ VOLÉ=BRISÉS VOLÉS
CAUSE CÉLÈBRE= CAUSES CÉLÈBRES,
BON MOT=BONS MOTS & JOLIE LAIDE=JOLIES LAIDES etc.

Take note of :

LORD LIEUTENANT= LORDS LIEUTENANTS & KNIGHT BACHELOR= KNIGHTS BACHELORS

Which also can comply with Rule 244

RULE 248**(..)(..Y/IES)**

{Rules 1-7}

CHANGE 'Y' TO 'IES' AT END OF LAST WORD ONLYAdditional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase**FRENCH FRY=FRENCH FRIES****RULE 249****(..)(..F/VES)**

{Rules 1-9}

CHANGE 'F' TO 'VES' AT END OF LAST WORD ONLYAdditional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase**TEA LEAF=TEA LEAVES****RULE 250****(..)(..FF/VES)**

{Rules 1-11}

CHANGE 'FF' TO 'VES' AT END OF LAST WORD ONLYAdditional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase**WRING STAFF=WRING STAVES****RULE 251****(..)(..UM/A)**

{Rules 1-27}

CHANGE 'UM' TO 'A' AT END OF LAST WORD ONLY

Additional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase

OBITER DICTUM=OBITER DICTA

RULE 252

{Rules 1-28}

(..)(..US/I)

CHANGE 'US' TO 'I' AT END OF LAST WORD ONLY

Additional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase

ACTUS REUS=ACTUS REI

RULE 253

{Rules 1-71}

(..)(..+TE..)

ADD MEDIAL 'TE' IN LAST WORD ONLY

Additional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase

LOCUM TEMENS=LOCUM TEMENTES

RULE 254

{Rules 28-1}

(..US/I)(..)

CHANGE 'US' TO 'I' AT END OF FIRST WORD ONLY

Additional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase

AMICUS CURIAE=AMICI CURIAE

RULE 255

{Rules 30-27}

(..US/ORA)(..+UM/A)

**CHANGE 'US' TO 'ORA' AT END OF FIRST WORD &
CHANGE 'UM' TO 'A' AT END OF LAST WORD**

Additional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase

Change **US** to **ORA** end of first and **UM** to **A** end of second word of two word Latin singular phrase to form the plural, as with

CORPUS LUTEUM-CORPORA LUTEA

RULE 256

{Rules 30-65}

(..US/ORA)(..E/I)

CHANGE 'US' TO 'ORA' AT END OF FIRST WORD & CHANGE 'E' TO 'IA' AT END OF LAST WORD

Additional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase

CORPUS VILE=CORPORA VILIA

RULE 257

{Rules 30-65}

(..I/E(..US/I)

CHANGE MEDIAL 'I' TO 'E' IN THE FIRST WORD & CHANGE 'US' TO 'I' AT END OF LAST WORD

Change **I** to **E** before the **S** in first word and **US** to **I** at the end of the second word of this two word Latin singular phrase to form the plural:-

IGNIS FATUUS-IGNES FATUI

RULE 258

{Rules 38-1}

(..+E)(..)

ADD 'E' TO END OF FIRST WORD ONLY

Additional **S** at the end of all the words in the phrase

INFIMA SPECIES=INFIMAE SPECIES

RULE 259

{Rules 38-38}

(..+E)(..+E)

ADD 'E' TO THE END OF ALL WORDS

Additional **E** at end of both words in two word Latin singular phrase to form the plural, as with

TABULA RASA-TABULAE RASAE, VENA CAVA=VENAE CAVAE

RULE 260

{Rules 42-1}

(..+X)(..)

ADD 'X' TO END OF FIRST WORD ONLY

Additional **X** at the end of the first word in the following:

JEU D'ESPRIT=JEUX D'ESPRIT**RULE 260A**

{Rules (42)(2)(2)}

(..+X)(..)(..)**ADD 'X' TO END OF FIRST WORD ONLY**Additional **X** at the end of the first word in the following:**FEU DE JOIE=FEUX DE JOIE****RULE 261**

{Rules 42-1}

(..+X)(..+S)**ADD 'X' TO END OF FIRST WORD AND 'S' TO END OF LAST WORD**Additional **X** at the end of the first and additional **S** at the end of the second word in a two word French singular phrase to form the plural, as with:**NOUVEAU RICHE-NOUVEAUX RICHES****RULE 262**

{Rules 47-49}

(..O/I)(..E/I)**CHANGE 'O' TO 'I' AT END OF FIRST WORD &
CHANGE 'E' TO 'I' AT END OF LAST WORD**Change **O** to **I** at end of the first word and **E** to **I** at the end of the second word of this two word singular phrase to form the plural:-**CORNO INGLESE=CORNI INGLES I****RULE 263**

{Rules 49-1-1}

(..E/I)(..)**CHANGE 'E' TO 'I' AT END OF FIRST WORD ONLY**

to form the plural:-

MONTE DI PIETÀ=MONTI DI PIETÀ**RULE 264**

{Rules 51-159}

(..+IM)(..+M)**ADD 'IM' TO END OF FIRST WORD &**

ADD 'M' TO END OF LAST WORD

to form the plural:-

MOSHAV SHITUFI=MOSHAVIM SHITUFIM

RULE 265

{Rules 56-200}

(..+A)(..S/TIA)

ADD 'A' TO END OF FIRST WORD & CHANGE 'S' TO 'TIA' AT END OF LAST WORD

Additional **A** at the end of the first word and change **S** to **TIA** at the end of the second word in a Latin derived phrase, such as:

VAS DEFERENS=VASA DEFERENTIA

RULE 266

{Rules 60-60}

(..A/E)(..A/E)

CHANGE 'A' TO 'E' AT END OF BOTH WORDS

Change **A** to **E** at end of all words in Italian singular phrase to form the plural, as with:

**PIETRA DURA=PIETRE DURE &
PRIMA DONNA ASSOLUTA=PRIMAE DONNAE ASSOLUTAE**

RULE 266B

{Rules 60-60}

(..A/E)(..A/E)(..A/E)

CHANGE 'A' TO 'E' AT END OF ALL WORDS

Change **A** to **E** at end of all words in Italian singular phrase to form the plural, as with:

**PIETRA DURA=PIETRE DURE &
PRIMA DONNA ASSOLUTA=PRIMAE DONNAE ASSOLUTAE**

RULE 267

{Rules 60-174}

(..A/E)(..A/HE)

CHANGE 'A' TO 'E' AT END OF FIRST WORD &

CHANGE 'A' TO 'HE' AT END OF LAST WORD

Change **A** to **E** at end of first word and **A** to **HE** at end of second word in:

LINGUA FRANCA=LINGUE FRANCHE

RULE 268

{Rules 71-1}

(..+TE..)(..)

ADD MEDIAL 'TE' IN THE FIRST WORD ONLY

Additional **TE** before the **S** in the first word only, in the following:

MONS PUBIS=MONTES PUBIS, MONS VENERIS=MONTES VENERIS

RULE 268

{Rules 71-1}

(..) (..+TE..)

ADD MEDIAL 'TE' IN THE SECOND WORD ONLY

Additional **TE** before the **S** in the first word only, in the following:

ET SEQUENS=ET SEQUENTES

RULE 269

{Rules 89-28}

(..+IT..)(..US/I)

ADD MEDIAL 'IT' IN THE FIRST WORD & CHANGE 'US' TO 'I' AT END OF LAST WORD

Add **IT** before the **ES** in the first word and change **US** to **I** at end of second word in a two word Latin singular phrase to form the plural, as with:-

MILES GLORIOSUS=MILITES GLORIOSI

RULE 270

{New Rule-Rule 1}

(..AV/VEI)(..)

CHANGE 'AV' TO 'VEI' AT END OF FIRST WORD ONLY

This includes a new rule derived from Hebrew plural formation in the first word, changing a final **AV** for **VEI**, which does not occur in single words in English but only in the phrase:

MOSHAV OVDIM-MOSHVEI OVDIM**RULE 271****(..L/AUX)(..+S)**

{New Rule-Rule 2}

**CHANGE 'L' TO 'AUX' AT END OF FIRST WORD
& ADD 'S' TO END OF LAST WORD**

This also includes a new rule with the first word, derived from the French, changing a final **L** to **AUX**, which does not occur in single words in English, and then adding **S** to the end of the last word for the phrase:

BEL ESPRIT=BEAUX ESPRITS**RULE 272****(..OD/AE)(..)**

{New Rule-Rule 1}

CHANGE 'OD' TO 'AE' AT END OF FIRST WORD ONLY

Change **OD** to **AE** at end of first word in two word Latin singular phrase to form the plural,

QUOD VIDE-QUAE VIDE**RULE 273****+(..+S)+(..)+(..+ES)**

{Special Rule}

**FROM SINGLE WORD MAKE THREE WORDS, ADD 'S' AT END OF FIRST,
SUBTRACT 'A' IN SECOND AND ADD 'ES' TO LAST WORD**

The singular is a single word but gets split up into three separate words in the plural, with an added S at the end of the first word, a second word formed, losing an A, and adding ES at the end of the last word, as follows:

SONOFABITCH=SONS / OF / BITCHES**RULE 274****(..) (..)**

{Special Rule}

NO CHANGE

This extensive explanation of the rules governing the formation of plurals from singulars in the English language began with Rule 1 which was where the word does not change at all. Rule 274 replicates that in the following phrase:

HORS D'OUEVRE=HORS D'OUEVRE

Although as with practically every example given in the book (with notable exceptions) you can also simply add S to the end of the last word as with

RULE 275

{Rules 38-1}

(..+ZIM)**ADD 'ZIM' TO END OF WORD**

Additional **Z** at the end of the singular, as with:

ZUZ=ZUZZIM**Verbs**

(I) AM= (WE) ARE
 (HE/SHE/IT) IS = (THEY) ARE
 (HE/SHE/IT) EXITS = (THEY) EXUENT
 MANET=MANENT

**FULL LIST OF ALL RULES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER
With Rule number and Page number and one example of each.**

“I come from Keslavia, where all Keslavians come from. Back home I have two brothers and three sisters, two parents, two wives, therefore two mothers-in-law, eight children, ten geese and sixty sheep. They all live in Ashi, one of the many towns in the central steppe. I have worked with shepherds for seventeen years, but now I want to become a mouse-catcher. The five people who have come to England with me are three men and two ladies, and we all want to be mouse-catchers too and catch mice. I am a good mouse-catcher, I have two strong arms, five fingers on each hand, two legs and two feet, two good eyes and strong teeth, which helps me catch mice and rats. I have a number of weapons, like Kalashnikovs to kill the little bastards. I would like to be paid in English pounds and pennies and not in horrible euros. I have suffered many traumas and crises in my country and I would appreciate the opportunity to study at your English for Foreigner school, as I know English words but am not very good at my plurals. I also like to gamble, and play the horses, dice and cards, and will make lots of money”