

Plural Word Detectives

Sort plural nouns by how they change.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.2.1 "Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking."

NAME _____

DATE _____

REGULAR PLURAL

A regular plural usually adds -s or -es to name more than one.

fox becomes foxes.

IRREGULAR PLURAL

An irregular plural changes in a special way, or it does not change at all.

goose becomes geese.

1 SORT _____ 8 items

Circle REGULAR or IRREGULAR for each word, then in Part 2, pick two words and tell how you knew.

1. cats

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

2. mice

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

3. boxes

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

4. children

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

5. sheep

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

6. dogs

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

7. feet

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

8. wishes

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

2

PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

ITEM # _____ HOW I KNEW _____

3

MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new regular plural and one new irregular plural.

REGULAR _____

IRREGULAR _____

CHALLENGE

Write one sentence that uses a regular plural and an irregular plural.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	cats	REGULAR	Adds -s to cat.
2	mice	IRREGULAR	Mouse changes to mice.
3	boxes	REGULAR	Adds -es to box.
4	children	IRREGULAR	Child changes to children.
5	sheep	IRREGULAR	Sheep stays the same for more than one.
6	dogs	REGULAR	Adds -s to dog.
7	feet	IRREGULAR	Foot changes to feet.
8	wishes	REGULAR	Adds -es to wish.

PART 2 • PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 • MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **REGULAR:** pencils
- **IRREGULAR:** teeth

Challenge: The dogs watched the geese.

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item. For Part 2, students should name the change in each word, such as "cats adds -s" or "mice changes from mouse."

Accept other correct regular and irregular plural examples in Part 3.