

Plural Word Detectives

Sort plural words by the rule they follow.

4.2.A.i “decoding words with specific orthographic patterns and rules, including regular and irregular plurals;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

REGULAR PLURALS

Regular plurals follow a spelling rule. You may add -s or -es, or change y to ies.

berries

IRREGULAR PLURALS

Irregular plurals change in a special way. They do not follow the usual plural spelling rules.

feet

1 SORT

8 items

For each word, circle REGULAR or IRREGULAR; then choose two words and explain which plural clue helped you sort each one.

1. cats

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

2. puppies

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

3. mice

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

4. dishes

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

5. people

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

6. geese

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

7. stories

REGULAR

IRREGULAR

8. teeth

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 one regular plural and one irregular plural. Label each plural with its category.

PART 1 • SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	cats	REGULAR	Adds -s to cat.
2	puppies	REGULAR	Changes y to ies.
3	mice	IRREGULAR	Mouse changes to mice.
4	dishes	REGULAR	Adds -es to dish.
5	people	IRREGULAR	Person changes to people.
6	geese	IRREGULAR	Goose changes to geese.
7	stories	REGULAR	Changes y to ies.
8	teeth	IRREGULAR	Tooth changes to teeth.

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:** buses
- **IRREGULAR:** women

Challenge: The buses carried women to the museum. buses: REGULAR; women: IRREGULAR.

Accept student examples that are correctly spelled plural nouns and fit the stated category. In Part 2, students should name a spelling rule for a regular plural or explain the special word change for an irregular plural.