

Plurals C

16r. Some nouns have irregular plural forms.

16s. For most compound nouns, form the plural of the last word in the compound.

16t. For compound nouns in which one of the words is modified by the other word or words, form the plural of the word modified.

SINGULAR	child	shipwreck	sister-in-law
PLURAL	children	shipwrecks	sisters-in-law

EXERCISE A In each of the following sentences, underline the correct form of the plural in parentheses.

Example 1. Most of the old movie (drive-ins, drives-in) are closed now.

- Overnight we caught two (*mouses*, *mice*) in the traps.
- I'll add two more (*spoonfuls*, *spoonsful*) of vinegar to the salad dressing.
- Edith writes an advice column for newlyweds and their (*parent-in-laws*, *parents-in-law*).
- The (*thirteen-year-olds*, *thirteen-years-old*) must pay the adult admission price.
- (*Womans*, *Women*) enjoyed that film more than men did.
- Both lighthouses on the island sounded their (*fogshorn*, *foghorns*).
- Piranha have sharp (*teeth*, *tooths*) with which they devour their prey.
- From the hardware bin, I pulled out two (*handfuls*, *handsful*) of nails.
- Please hang your wet coats on one of the (*coats rack*, *coat racks*).
- We need a photo of all the class (*vices-president*, *vice-presidents*) for the yearbook.

EXERCISE B Each sentence below contains a spelling error. Draw a line through each error, and write the correctly spelled word above it.

Example 1. There are three blank ~~videotaps~~ ^{videotapes} in the cabinet.

- My foots ached after the exhausting hiking trip.
- There are so many teethbrushes to choose from at this grocery store!
- How many people will attend the spring conference for editor in chiefs?
- The waiter says there are two soup of the days; they both sound good.
- Did you see the large, active flock of geoses at the park?