

Making plurals by adding 's'

Plural means more than one of something. Most plurals are formed by adding an 's' to the singular, for example,

one **shop** becomes two **shops**
one **car** becomes ten **cars**

These are straightforward.

However there are some words that change spelling when 's' is added. This exercise looks at what happens when 's' is added to words that end in the letters 'y'

For example **party + s = parties**

If you have a problem remembering this, then this exercise is for you!

The answers to the exercises are on the last page.

Rules about words ending in y

To get the plural of words ending in ‘y’, there is a rule to remember.

If there is a **vowel** before the y, you just add ‘s’.

If there is a **consonant** before the ‘y’, drop the ‘y’ and add ‘ies’.

The 5 vowels are **a e i o u**. All the other letters are consonants.

Vowel + y

Here are some examples of words with a vowel before the ‘y’. To make these words plural, remember the rule is just to add ‘s’.

day + s = days **boy** + s = boys **tray** + s = trays

Can you think of other words ending in y which have a vowel before the y?

Write them below and add make them plural by adding ‘s’.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Consonant + y

Can you remember what the rule says when there is a consonant before the 'y'? You drop the 'y' and add 'ies'. Before looking at some examples, check you know the consonants by writing them out. The first two are done for you. To check you have them all, count them. You should have 22 letters.

Exercise 1 – Write the consonants

b c _____

Exercise 2 – Underlining consonants

Here are some examples of words with a consonant before the 'y'. Underline the consonant before the 'y'.

b <u>ab</u> y + s = babies	l <u>ad</u> y + s = ladies
l <u>or</u> ry + s = lorries	cu <u>rr</u> y + s = curries

Now rewrite these sentences making the underlined word into the plural. Check if you need to change any other word to make sense.

1. The union said the factory had to stay open.

2. The university has an open day in the spring.

Exercise 3 – Making plurals

Make these words into plurals. Remember the RULE!

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. toy = toys | 6. library = _____ |
| 2. holiday = _____ | 7. family = _____ |
| 3. diary = _____ | 8. trolley = _____ |
| 4. jockey = _____ | 9. allergy = _____ |
| 5. factory = _____ | 10. party = _____ |

Exercise 4 – The Rule

Remembering the rule is key to getting these spellings right. To check that you have it in the right order, fill in the blanks to make the rule.

‘ies’ vowel consonant ‘s’

If there is a _____ before the y, you just add ____.

If there is a _____ before the ‘y’, drop the ‘y’ and add ____.

Exercise 5 - Choose the right word.

Write the sentence again using the right word.

1. John hated going to Christmas *partys/parties* because he always had to drive.

2. There were two *lorries/lorrys* in the crash.

3. The fisherman put the *buoys/buoies* in the water.

4. All the *libraries/librarys* have computers which the public can use.

5. Children love school *holidays/holidaies* more than their parents.

Answers

Exercise 1 – List the consonants

b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z

(the 5 other letters are vowels – a e i o u)

Exercise 2 – Underlining consonants

baby + s = babies lady + s = ladies
lorry + s = lorries curry + s = curries

1. The union said the factories had to stay open.
2. The universities *have* an open day in the Spring.

Exercise 3 – Making plurals

1. toy = toys
2. holiday = holidays
3. diary = diaries
4. jockey = jockeys
5. factory = factories
6. library = libraries
7. family = families
8. trolley = trolleys
9. allergy = allergies
10. party = parties

Exercise 4 – The Rule

‘ies’ vowel consonant ‘s’

If there is a vowel before the y, you just add ‘s’.

If there is a consonant before the ‘y’, drop the ‘y’ and add ‘ies’.

Exercise 5 - Choose the right word.

1. John hated going to Christmas *parties* because he always had to drive.
2. There were two *lorries* in the crash.
3. The fisherman put the *buoys* in the water.
4. All the *libraries* have computers which the public can use.
5. Children love school *holidays* more than their parents.