

Grammar and spelling tables

Table A Plural nouns

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
With most nouns we add -s to make them plural:	shop tyre kilo	shops tyres kilos
With nouns that end with -s, -ss, -sh, -ch, -x, we add -es:	bus dress wish beach box	buses dresses wishes beaches boxes
With some nouns that end with -o, we add -es:	tomato potato	tomatoes potatoes
We change -f/-fe to -ves in the plural:	thief shelf leaf life	thieves shelves leaves lives
With nouns that end with a consonant* + -y, we change the -y to -ies:	story copy lorry	stories copies lorries
Irregular nouns	tooth child woman	teeth children women

Table B Uncountable nouns

These are some common uncountable nouns:	ice, water, rain, snow, heat, noise cotton, glass, petrol, money, luggage information, work, homework, advice, news meat, milk, butter, bread, marmalade, food, tea, coffee, sugar, toast, cheese
Uncountable nouns do not have a plural form:	petrol (Not petrols) bread (Not breads)
We cannot use a/an with an uncountable noun, but we can use some/any, the, much (not many), such , and my/your/his etc:	a : I always have an egg, and then toast and marmalade for breakfast. some : I'd like some tea please. the : Look at the snow outside. much : How much luggage have you got? such : We've had such wonderful news .
Some nouns can be countable or uncountable:	I heard a noise from downstairs. (countable) I can't sleep. The neighbours are making so much noise . (uncountable)

Table C Present Simple

	I/you/we/they	He/she/it
After he/she/it , we add -s to most Present Simple verbs:	say make advise	says makes advises
We add -es to verbs that end with -ss, -sh, -ch, -o (e.g. <i>finish, go</i>):	pass finish wish catch go do	passes finishes wishes catches goes does
We change -y to -ies with verbs that end with a consonant* + -y :	fly carry study	flies carries studies

Table D -ing forms

	INFINITIVE	-ing FORM
With most verbs we add -ing :	go ask	going asking
With verbs that end with a consonant* + -e , we delete the -e and add -ing :	take hope live queue	taking hoping living queuing
With verbs that end with -ie , we change -ie to -ying :	lie die	lying dying
With verbs that end with one vowel* + one consonant (e.g. <i>run, swim, jog</i>), we double the consonant:	get run swim jog	getting running swimming jogging
But note that we do not double the consonant, (1) when it is a y or w (e.g. <i>stay</i>), (2) when the last syllable* is not stressed (e.g. <i>VISit, LISten, WONder</i>):	stay buy borrow draw visit listen wonder	staying buying borrowing drawing visiting listening wondering
But note also that we double the l at the end of verbs, when the last syllable is not stressed (e.g. <i>TRAVel</i>):	travel	travelling

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

Vowels: a e i o u

Syllables: |hit|=1 syllable |vi|sit|=2 syllables |re|mem|ber|=3 syllables

Table E Regular verbs: Past Simple and past participle

	INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
With most verbs we add -ed :	happen	happened	happened
With verbs ending with -e , we add -d :	live	lived	lived
With verbs that end with a consonant* + -y , we change the y to -ied :	try study	tried studied	tried studied
With verbs that end with one vowel* + one consonant , we double the consonant:	stop grab	stopped grabbed	stopped grabbed
We do not double the consonant, (1) when it is a y or w (e.g. <i>enjoy</i>), (2) when the last syllable* is not stressed (e.g. <i>disCOVer</i> , <i>LISten</i> , <i>HAppen</i>):	enjoy allow discover listen	enjoyed allowed discovered listened	enjoyed allowed discovered listened
But note also that we double the l at the end of verbs, when the last syllable is not stressed (e.g. <i>TRAVel</i>):	cancel travel	cancelled travelled	cancelled travelled

Table F Irregular verbs: Past Simple and past participle

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
be	was/were	been	give	gave	given
beat	beat	beaten	go	went	gone/been
become	became	become	grow	grew	grown
begin	began	begun	have	had	had
break	broke	broken	hear	heard	heard
bring	brought	brought	hide	hid	hidden
build	built	built	hit	hit	hit
burn	burnt	burnt	hold	held	held
buy	bought	bought	hurt	hurt	hurt
catch	caught	caught	keep	kept	kept
choose	chose	chosen	know	knew	known
come	came	come	learn	learnt/learned	learnt/learned
cost	cost	cost	leave	left	left
cut	cut	cut	lend	lent	lent
do	did	done	let	let	let
draw	drew	drawn	lose	lost	lost
drink	drank	drunk	make	made	made
drive	drove	driven	meet	met	met
eat	ate	eaten	pay	paid	paid
fall	fell	fallen	put	put	put
feel	felt	felt	read	read	read
find	found	found	ring	rang	rung
fly	flew	flown	run	ran	run
forget	forgot	forgotten	say	said	said
forbid	forbade	forbidden	see	saw	seen
get	got	got	sell	sold	sold

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
send	sent	sent	swim	swam	swum
show	showed	shown/showed	take	took	taken
shut	shut	shut	teach	taught	taught
sing	sang	sung	tell	told	told
sit	sat	sat	think	thought	thought
sleep	slept	slept	throw	threw	thrown
speak	spoke	spoken	understand	understood	understood
spend	spent	spent	wake	woke	woken
stand	stood	stood	wear	wore	worn
steal	stole	stolen	win	won	won
sweep	swept	swept	write	wrote	written

Table G Comparative and superlative adjectives

	ADJECTIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
We add -er / -est to short adjectives (one-syllable* adjectives):	cheap near long	cheaper nearer longer	the cheapest the nearest the longest
We add -r / -st to adjectives that end with -e :	late	later	the latest
With short adjectives that end with one vowel* and one consonant* (e.g. <i>big</i>), we double the consonant:	big hot wet	bigger hotter wetter	the biggest the hottest the wettest
We don't double w :	few	fewer	the fewest
We use more / the most before adjectives of two or more syllables*:	expensive beautiful polluted	more expensive more beautiful more polluted	the most expensive the most beautiful the most polluted
But note that with adjectives ending with -y (e.g. <i>happy</i>), we change -y to -ier / -iest :	happy lucky easy dirty	happier luckier easier dirtier	the happiest the luckiest the easiest the dirtiest
Irregular adjectives:	good bad far little	better worse farther less	the best the worst the farthest the least
fewer and less Note that we usually use fewer with plural nouns, and less with uncountable nouns (e.g. money):	<i>There are fewer shops in the centre of town than there used to be.</i> <i>John earns less money than Mary.</i>		

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