

29. Nouns (2) - plural of nouns

1 As in English, plurals are generally formed by adding an -s to the end of the word. The following exceptions apply:

1.1 Nouns ending in -s, -x, or -z remain the same:

les fils	les voix	les gaz
<i>the sons</i>	<i>the voices</i>	<i>the gases</i>

1.2 Nouns ending in -au and -eu take -x in the plural:

les châteaux	les tuyaux	les cheveux	but les pneus
<i>the castles</i>	<i>the pipes</i>	<i>the hair</i>	<i>the tyres</i>

1.3 Certain nouns ending in -ou take -x in the plural:

les bijoux	les cailloux	les choux	but les clous	les trous
<i>the jewels</i>	<i>the pebbles</i>	<i>the cabbages</i>	<i>the nails</i>	<i>the holes</i>

1.4 Certain words ending in -ail and -al end in -aux in the plural:

un travail - des travaux	<i>work</i>
un animal - des animaux	<i>animals</i>
un journal - des journaux	<i>newspapers</i>

but des carnivals des festivals
carnivals *festivals*

1.5 Certain words change fundamentally in the plural:

un oeil - les yeux	<i>the eyes</i>
Monsieur - Messieurs	<i>Gentlemen</i>
Madame - Mesdames	<i>Ladies</i>

1.6 Proper nouns and acronyms (words like NATO formed from the initial letters of phrases) take no -s in the plural, unlike in English:

On est allé voir les **Dupont** hier soir
*We went to see the **Duponts** yesterday evening*
 Ils possèdent deux **Peugeot**
*They own two **Peugeots***
 En ce qui concerne les ordinateurs, je préfère les **Apple** aux **PC**
*As far as computers are concerned, I prefer **Apples** to **PCs***
 Elle dépense tout son argent en **CD**
*She spends all her money on **CDs***

1.7 Some words are singular in one language and plural in the other:

English singular

to make progress / to carry out research
 information / evidence
 knowledge

French plural

faire des progrès / des recherches
des renseignements / preuves
des connaissances

English plural

stairs

trousers / shorts / pyjamas

economics / physics

French singular

un escalier

un pantalon / un short / un pyjama

l'économie / la physique