

## flower(s) bus(es) (singular and plural)

## A

The plural of a noun is usually -s:

singular (= one)	→	plural (= two or more)
a flower	→	some flowers
a week	→	two weeks
a nice place	→	many nice places
this shop	→	these shops



a flower

some flowers

Spelling (⇒ Appendix 5):

-s / -sh / -ch / -x	→	-es	bus → buses	dish → dishes
			church → churches	box → boxes
		also	potato → potatoes	tomato → tomatoes
-y	→	-ies	baby → babies	dictionary → dictionaries
			party → parties	
but -ay / -ey / -oy	→	-ys	day → days	monkey → monkeys
				boy → boys
-f / -fe	→	-ves	shelf → shelves	knife → knives
				wife → wives

## B

These things are plural in English:



- Do you wear glasses?
- Where are the scissors? I need them.

You can also say a pair of scissors / a pair of trousers / a pair of pyjamas etc.:  
 I need a new pair of jeans. or I need some new jeans. (not 'a new jeans')

## C

Some plurals do not end in -s:

this man → these men	one foot → two feet	that sheep → those sheep
a woman → some women	a tooth → all my teeth	a fish → a lot of fish
a child → many children	a mouse → some mice	

also: a person → two people / some people / a lot of people etc.

- She's a nice person.
- They are nice people. (not 'nice persons')

## D

People is plural (= they), so we say people are / people have etc.:

- A lot of people speak English. (not 'speaks')
- I like the people here. They are very friendly.

Police is plural:

- 'The police are here.' 'Why? What do they want?'

## EXERCISES

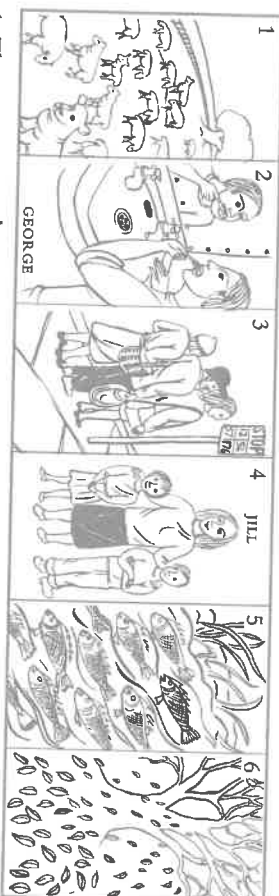
## 65.1

Write the plural.

- |          |         |            |            |
|----------|---------|------------|------------|
| 1 flower | flowers | 5 umbrella | 9 family   |
| 2 boat   | boats   | 6 address  | 10 foot    |
| 3 woman  | women   | 7 knife    | 11 holiday |
| 4 city   | cities  | 8 sandwich | 12 potato  |

## 65.2

Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.



- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 There are a lot of <u>sheep</u> in the field. | 4 Jill has got two .....   |
| 2 George is cleaning his .....                  | 5 There are a lot of ..... |
| 3 There are three .....                         | 6 The .....                |

## 65.3

Some of these sentences are right but most are wrong. Correct the sentences that are wrong.

- I'm going to buy some flowers. OK
- I need a new jeans. I need a new pair of jeans. OR I need some new jeans.
- It's a lovely park with a lot of beautiful tree.
- There was a woman in the car with two men.
- Sheep eat grass.
- David is married and has three child.
- Most of my friend are student.
- He put on his pyjama and went to bed.
- We went fishing but we didn't catch many fish.
- Do you know many persons in this town?
- I like your trouser. Where did you get it?
- The town centre is usually full of tourist.
- I don't like mice. I'm afraid of them.
- This scissor isn't very sharp.

## 65.4

Which is right? Complete the sentences.

- It's a nice place. Many people go there for a holiday. (go or goes?)
- Some people ..... always late. (is or are?)
- The president is not popular. The people ..... like him. (don't or doesn't?)
- A lot of people ..... television every day. (watch or watches?)
- Three people ..... injured in the accident. (was or were?)
- How many people ..... in that house? (live or lives?)
- ..... the police carry guns in your country? (Do or Does?)
- The police ..... looking for the stolen car. (is or are?)
- I need my glasses but I can't find ..... (it or them?)
- I'm going to buy ..... new jeans today. (a or some?)