

★ LESSONS 124 & 125 • SINGULAR & PLURAL NOUNS • ADDING "-S"

MORPHOLOGICAL RULE • 26PX STANDARD LINES

1. Wheeler's Law of Number: Singular to Plural (Lesson 124)

12 Transformation Pairs

Wheeler's Law: "The form of a word which means but *one* is called the *singular form*. Copy the words, and add *s* to each; when this is done, each word means more than one, and is then called the *plural form*."

lark

/s/ sound

lark + s = larks

road

/z/ sound

road + s = roads

day

/z/ sound

day + s = days

pencil

/z/ sound

pencil + s = pencils

park

/s/ sound

park + s = parks

flower

/z/ sound

flower + s = flowers

week

/s/ sound

week + s = weeks

picture

/z/ sound

picture + s = pictures

brook

/s/ sound

brook + s = brooks

street

/s/ sound

street + s = streets

year

/z/ sound

year + s = years

garden

/z/ sound

garden + s = gardens

2. Lesson 125: Write the Plural Form for Each Word

12 Words • Add -s

home

/z/ sound

home + s = homes

sister

/z/ sound

sister + s = sisters

carpet

/s/ sound

carpet + s = carpets

friend

/z/ sound

friend + s = friends

table

/z/ sound

table + s = tables

window

/z/ sound

window + s = windows

letter

/z/ sound

letter + s = letters

cloud

/z/ sound

cloud + s = clouds

scholar

/z/ sound

scholar + s = scholars

basket

/s/ sound

basket + s = baskets

apple

/z/ sound

apple + s = apples

orange

/tʃ/ sound

orange + s = oranges

3. Original Sentence Composition (Wheeler's Sentence Requirement)

Select Words • 26px Baseline • 13px Midline

1. Complete with the plural of *lark* and *park*:

"Merry _____ sang sweetly as the children walked through the public _____."

2. Complete with the plural of *road* and *flower*:

"Along the country _____, bright wild _____ were blooming in the sunshine."

3. Complete with the plural of *scholar* and *friend*:

"The faithful _____ wrote kind letters to all their school _____."

4. Complete with the plural of *apple*, *orange*, and *basket*:

"Ripe red _____ and sweet _____ filled both woven _____."

1. Orthoepic & Morphological Matrix of Suffix "-s" (Representative Vocabulary)

Acoustic Allomorphy of Plural -s

SINGULAR	SINGULAR IPA	PLURAL FORM	PLURAL IPA	ALLOMORPH	CODA VOICE ENVIRONMENT & PHONETIC RULE
lark	/lɑːrk/	larks	/lɑːrks/	/s/	Voiceless velar stop /k/. Suffix assimilates to voiceless [s].
brook	/brʊk/	brooks	/brʊks/	/s/	Voiceless velar stop /k/. Short lax oo /ʊ/. Voiceless [s].
street	/stri:t/	streets	/stri:ts/	/s/	Voiceless alveolar stop /t/. Suffix assimilates to voiceless [s].
carpet	/ˈkɑːr.pɪt/	carpets	/ˈkɑːr.pɪts/	/s/	Voiceless alveolar stop /t/. Final unstressed syllable takes [s].
road	/roʊd/	roads	/roʊdz/	/z/	Voiced alveolar stop /d/. Plural suffix preserves voiced [z].
flower	/ˈflaʊ.ər/	flowers	/ˈflaʊ.ərz/	/z/	Voiced liquid coda /r/. Suffix realizes as voiced [z].
day	/deɪ/	days	/deɪz/	/z/	Open voiced diphthong /eɪ/. Vowels are inherently voiced → [z].
pencil	/ˈpɛn.səl/	pencils	/ˈpɛn.səlz/	/z/	Voiced lateral liquid /l/. Suffix realizes as voiced [z].
friend	/frɛnd/	friends	/frɛndz/	/z/	Voiced cluster /nd/. Suffix realizes as voiced [z].
orange	/ˈɔːr.ɪndʒ/	oranges	/ˈɔːr.ɪndʒ.ɪz/	/ɪz/	Voiced palato-alveolar affricate /dʒ/ + silent -e → epenthetic [ɪz].

\$ 1. The Three Acoustic Allomorphs of "-s"

Although spelled uniformly with the single letter -s, English plural nouns exhibit 3 distinct phonetic realizations conditioned by the preceding sound:

- **Voiceless /s/:** Follows voiceless consonants /p, t, k, f, θ/ (*larks, parks, brooks, streets, carpets, baskets*).
- **Voiced /z/:** Follows vowels and voiced consonants /b, d, g, v, ð, m, n, ŋ, l, r/ (*roads, flowers, days, years, pencils, friends, clouds*).
- **Syllabic /ɪz/:** Follows sibilants /s, z, ʒ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/ with silent -e (*oranges*).

🕒 2. Wheeler's Grammatical Concept of "Number"

Wheeler introduces formal grammatical classification within spelling:

- **Singular Form:** Means "but one of each thing named" (Latin *singularis* = single, solitary).
- **Plural Form:** Means "more than one" (Latin *pluralis* = pertaining to more).
- **Pedagogical Value:** Establishes the foundation for subject-verb agreement ("A lark sings" vs. "Larks sing") covered in succeeding lessons.

3. Oral Dictation Sentences (Administer in Class)

Contextual Decodability • Suffix Agreement

1. The merry **larks** sang sweetly above the green **parks** and shaded **roads**.
2. Fresh **flowers** bloomed in sunny **gardens** throughout all **weeks** of the **year**.
3. Diligent **scholars** kept their sharp **pencils** and neat **pictures** upon wooden **tables**.
4. Our kind **sisters** sent long **letters** to all their dear school **friends**.
5. Two large **baskets** of red **apples** and golden **oranges** stood by open **windows**.

⚠ Diagnostic Pitfalls & Remediation

- **Apostrophe Intrusion:** Students often write *apple's* or *flower's*. Remind them: "An *apostrophe* shows ownership; simple plurals only add -s without a hook!"
- **Phonetic Voicing Substitution:** Writing *roadz, dayz, friendz* because of the voiced /z/ acoustic output. Explain that English spelling preserves the base unit -s.
- **Dropping Base Silent -e:** Writing *orangs* instead of *oranges*. The *e* must remain to protect the soft /dʒ/ sound of *g*!

✅ Socratic Oral Discussion Prompts

- **Grammatical Definition:** "If I say 'one pencil', is that singular or plural? What if I hold three?"
- **Acoustic Vibration Test:** "Place your fingertips on your throat. Say 'parks', then say 'roads'. What buzzing sound do you feel at the end of 'roads'?"
- **Spelling Consistency:** "Why do we write '-s' for both 'larks' and 'roads' even though our voices buzz differently?"

📄 Evaluative Scoring Rubric (20 Points Total)

1. Plural -s Suffix (6 pts)

Accurately attaches -s to all 24 singular nouns without omitting base letters or inserting apostrophes.

2. Acoustic Coding (5 pts)

Demonstrates oral discrimination between voiceless /s/, voiced /z/, and syllabic /ɪz/ allomorphs.

3. Sentence Syntax (5 pts)

Successfully integrates plural nouns into syntactically sound, grammatically agreeing original sentences.

4. 26px Penmanship (4 pts)

Letters strictly adhere to 26px baseline; lowercase letters align with 13px dashed midline; proper spacing.