

Of NOUNS.

Some Nouns are irregular in the formation of their plural such as,

<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>	<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>
Man*	men	Tooth	teeth
Woman	women	Goose	geese
Child	children	Mouse	mice
Foot	feet	Louse	lice
Ox	oxen	Penny	pence

<i>Singular.</i>	<i>Plural.</i>
Brother	brothers, or brethren†
Sow or swine‡	sows, or swine
Die (for gaming)	dice
Die (for coining)	dies
Aide-de-camp	aides-de-camp
Court-martial	courts-martial
Cousin-german	cousins-german
Father-in-law, &c.	fathers-in-law, &c.

OBSERVATIONS:

Names of *metals, virtues, vices, and things that are weighed or measured, &c.*, are in general *singular*, as *Gold, meekness, drunkenness, bread, beer, beef, &c.*, except when the different sorts are meant, as *Wines, teas*.

Some nouns are used only in the plural; such as *Antipodes, literati, credenda, minutia, banditti, data, folk*.

The singular of *literati, &c.*, is made by saying *one of the literati*. *Bandit*, the singular of *banditti*, is often used in newspapers.

The words *Apparatus, hiatus, series, brace, dozen, means, and species*, are alike in both numbers. Some pluralize *series* into *serieses*. *Brace, dozen, &c.*, sometimes admit of the plural form: thus, He bought partridges in *braces*, and books in *dozens, &c.*

News and *alms* are generally used in the *singular* number, but sometimes in the *plural*. *Pains* is generally plural.

Pease and *fish* are used when we mean the *species*; as *Pease* are dear, *fish* is cheap; but when we refer to the *number*, we say, *£ eas, fishes*; as, *Ten peas, two fishes*.

Horse and *foot*, meaning *cavalry* and *infantry*, are used in the *singular form* with a plural verb; as, *A thousand horse were ready; ten thousand foot were there. Men* is understood.

* The compounds of man form the plural like the simple; namely, by changing a of the singular into e of the plural.—*Mussel-man*, not being a compound of man, is *musselmans*, it is said, in the plural; I think it should always be *musselmen* in the plural.

† The word *brethren* is generally applied to the members of the same society or church, and *brothers* to the sons of the same parents.

‡ The singular of some nouns is distinguished from the plural by the article a; as, *A sheep, a swine*.