

34. Nouns have two numbers, the SINGULAR and the PLURAL. The singular denotes but one object; as, *Book, tree*; the plural more than one; as, *Books, trees*.

35. Nouns form their plurals in four different ways,—

- I. By adding 's' to the singular.
- II. Do. 'es' do.
- III. Do. 'en' do.
- IV. By changing the vowel of the singular.

RULES.

36.—I. By adding 's.'—The plural is commonly formed by adding 's' to the singular; as, *Book, books*.

II. By adding 'es.'—1. Words ending in a sound that will not unite with the sound of 's,'—i. e., in 's,' 'sh,' 'ch' (soft), 'x,' and 'z,'—form their plural by adding 'es;' as, *Fox, foxes; match, matches*.

2. Most nouns, ending in 'o' preceded by a consonant, form their plural in 'es;' as, *Cargo, cargoes*.

Exceptions.—*Canto, memento, octavo, two, zero, grotto, junto, portico, quarto, solo, tyro, halo*; also nouns ending in 'eo,' 'io,' 'yo.'

3.—(1) Nouns in 'y' after a consonant form their plural in 'es,' changing 'y' into 'i,' because the additional syllable begins with a vowel; as, *Lady, ladies*.

(2) Nouns in 'y' after a vowel follow the general rule; as, *Day, days*. But nouns ending in 'quy' form their plural in 'ies;' as, *Soliloquy, soliloquies*.

4. Nouns in 'f' or 'fe' form their plural in 'es,' changing 'f' into 'v;' as, *Wife, wives; life, lives*.

Exceptions.—*Gulf, safe, fife, strife*, and nouns ending in 'ff,' 'f,' preceded by two vowels, and in 'rf,' form their plural in 's.' To this, however, there is an exception in the case of a few words, such as *staff, leaf, loaf, sheaf, thief, &c.* The compounds of the first of these words form their plural *regularly*; as, *Flagstaffs*.

5. Nouns in 'i' form their plural in 'es;' as, *Houri, houries*.

III. By adding 'en.'—This termination is found only in nouns of Anglo-Saxon origin; as, *Ox, oxen; child, children*.

The word *children* seems to be a double plural.

IV. By changing the vowel of the singular; as,

Singular.	Plural.	Singular.	Plural.
Man	Men	Tooth	Teeth
Woman	Women	Goose	Geese
Foot	Feet	Mouse	Mice
Louse	Lice	Cow (formerly)	Kine
		(now)	Cows