

20. But the following *twelve* nouns form the plural regularly in *s* :

Le bal	(= ball)	L' épouvantail	(= scarecrow)
Le bercail	(= sheepfold)	L' éventail	(= fan)
Le cal	(= callosity)	Le gouvernail	(= rudder)
Le carnaval	(= carnival)	Le pal	(= stake)
Le chacal	(= jackal)	Le portail	(= gate)
Le détail	(= detail)	Le régal	(= treat).

21. The following *eight* nouns have two plural forms, one regular, the other irregular with a different meaning :

L' aïeul	(= the grandfather)	Les aïeux	(= the ancestors)
Le ciel	(= the sky)	Les cieux	(= the heavens)
L' œil	(= the eye)	Les yeux	(= the eyes)
Bétail	(= cattle)	Bestiaux	(= cattle).

22. **Use of the plural or the singular.** In all constructions, in which the sense allows of the complimentary noun being considered as either singular or plural, either number may be employed.

Des habits de femme or de femmes (= Women's clothes).
Des confitures de groseille or groseilles (= Gooseberry preserves).

Ils ont ôté leur chapeau or leurs chapeaux (= They took off their hats).

23. **Plural of proper names.** Proper names preceded by the plural article may always take the sign of the plural : C'est la gloire de la France d'avoir donné le jour à des Corneilles, des Racines, des Lamartines et des Hugos, (= It is France's glory to have given birth to men like Corneille, Racine, Lamartine and Hugo). Les Millets sont aussi recherchés que les Meissonniers et les Detailles (= Millet's pictures are as much sought after as Meissonnier's and Detaille's).

24. **Plural of foreign nouns** When nouns derived from other languages have become thoroughly nationalized, they may take the sign of the plural :

Des exents (= permission to leave)

Des paters et des avés.

25. **Compound nouns.** They may be written without a hyphen : Des chefs d'oeuvre (= master-pieces).
Des arcs en ciel (= rainbows).