

one; plural, from

who has written an
only and somely.

ng the plural in

lar.

adding es or s.

s. plural in as, as

PLURAL.

Beeves.

Loaves.

Shelves.

Staves.

Thieves.

syllable to the sing.

a flat v, as in *beeves*,

spelling is preserved
is point in modern

used in the plural.
tc.

into *te* when *o* is
ies, and also *otic*.

e ox. Shakespeare
an ox.

y adding en or
and kine.

was *cild-r-u*, which
oper plural, and *en*
as added to the old
thr-u.

est plural was *cŷ*,
e. Then *ne* was

22. Third Mode.—The plural is formed by changing the vowel-sound of the word. The following are examples:—

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.	SINGULAR.	PLURAL.
Man	Men.	Tooth	Teeth.
Foot	Feet.	Mouse	Mice.
Goose	Geese.	Louse	Lice.

(i) To understand this, we must observe that when a new syllable is added to a word, the vowel of the preceding syllable is often weakened. Thus we find *nātion*, *nātionā*; *fox*, *vixen*. Now the oldest plurals of the above words had an additional syllable; and it is to this that the change in the vowel is due.

23. There are in English several nouns with two plural forms, with different meanings. The following is a list:—

SINGULAR.	PLURAL.	PLURAL.
Brother	brothers (by blood)	brethren (of a community).
Cloth	cloths (kinds of cloth)	clothes (garments).
Die	dies (stamps for coining)	dice (cubes for gaming).
Fish	fishes (looked at separately)	fish (taken collectively).
Genius	geniuses (men of talent)	genii (powerful spirits).
Index	indexes (to books)	indices (to quantities in algebra).
Pea	peas (taken separately)	pease (taken collectively).
Penny	pennies (taken separately)	pence (taken collectively).
Shot	shots (separate discharges)	shot (balls, collectively)

(i) *Pea* is a false singular. The *s* belongs to the root; and we find in Middle English "as big as a *pease*," and the plurals *pesen* and *peses*.

24. Some nouns have the same form in the plural as in the singular. Such are *deer*, *sheep*, *cod*, *trout*, *mackerel*, and others.

(i) Most of these nouns were, in Old English, neuter.

(ii) A special plural is found in such phrases as: *A troop of horse*; *a company of foot*; *ten sail of the line*; *three brace of birds*; *six gross of steel pens*; *ten stone weight*, etc. In fact, the names of numbers, weights, measures, etc., are not put into the plural form. Thus we say, *ten hundredweight*, *five score*, *five fathom*, *six brace*. In Old English we also said *forty year*, *sixty winter*; and we still say, *a twelvemonth*, *a fortnight* (= fourteen nights).

25. There are in English several false plurals—that is, real singulars which look like plurals. These are *alms*, *riches*, and *eaves*.