

3. DEFINITION.—Number is a variation in the form of nouns or pronouns, by means of which we show whether we are speaking of one of the things for which the noun stands, or of more than one.

4. There are two numbers of nouns—the *singular* number, which denotes one object, and the *plural* number, which denotes more than one object.

5. RULE.—Most nouns form their plural by adding *S* to the singular; as star, stars; neighbour, neighbours.

Write the plural of the following nouns :

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|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Plant. | 5. Reaper. | 9. Garden. |
| 2. Rainbow. | 6. Serpent. | 10. Wheelbarrow. |
| 3. Wall. | 7. Knell. | 11. Water. |
| 4. Danger. | 8. Chestnut. | 12. Apple. |

6. Now let us take the verbs in the two sentences given above.

We say, "The river flows," and

We say, "The rivers flow."

7. We observe that with the singular, "river," the verb ends in *s*—"flows"; while with the plural form "rivers," the verb has not the *s*.

8. It is not correct to say, "The river *flow*." Neither is it correct to say, "The rivers *flows*."

9. RULE.—When a verb denoting present time is joined with a noun subject in the singular number, the verb generally ends in *s*; but when joined with a noun subject in the plural number, the verb generally omits the *s*.