



learning target

Aim of this section is to learn how to form the plural of a noun.

singular	plural	English
der Junge	die Jungen	boy / boys
das Jahr	die Jahre	year / years
die Tür	die Türen	door / doors
das Mädchen	die Mädchen	girl / girls
der Baum	die Bäume	tree / trees
das Auto	die Autos	car / cars

rules

The rule is:

There is no rule!

No, it's no joke. In English you just add a "s" to form a plural. In German, there are 12 different ways to form a plural and there aren't really rules which help to know which noun requires which way. You have just one choice. When you learn a new noun learn the noun, the article and the plural form.

The 12 ways to form a plural in German

1. way: add an "e" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
der Schuh	die Schuhe	shoe / shoes
das Wort	die Worte	word / words
das Problem	die Probleme	problem / problems

2. way: add a "n" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
die Straße	die Straßen	street / streets
die Schule	die Schulen	schools / schools
der Name	die Namen	name / names

3. way: add a "s" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
der Park	die Parks	park / parks
das Hotel	die Hotels	hotel / hotels
die Kamera	die Kameras	camera / cameras



4. way: add an "en" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
der Student	die Student <u>en</u>	student / students
das Bett	die Bett <u>en</u>	bed / beds
die Tür	die Tü <u>ren</u>	door / doors

5. way: add a "er" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
das Ei	die Eier	egg/ eggs
das Kind	die Kinder	child / children
der Geist	die Geister	ghost / ghosts

6. way: add a "se" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
das Zeugnis	die Zeugnisse	school report / school reports
das Erlebnis	die Erlebnisse	experience / experiences
das Verhältnis	die Verhältnisse	relationship / relationships

7. way: add a "nen" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
die Freundin	die Freund <u>innen</u>	friend / friends (female)
die Ärztin	die Ärzt <u>innen</u>	doctor / doctors (female)
die Studentin	die Student <u>innen</u>	student / students (female)

8. way: add nothing to the noun. Singular and plural are the same.

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
der Fehler	die Fehler	mistake / mistakes
der Schüler	die Schüler	pupil / pupils
das Fenster	die Fenster	window / windows

9. way: change the stem vowel.

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
die Tochter	die Tö <u>chter</u>	daughter/ daughters
der Vater	die V <u>äter</u>	father / fathers
der Bruder	die Br <u>üder</u>	brother / brothers

10. way: change the stem vowel and add an "e" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
der Fuß	die Fü <u>ße</u>	foot / feet
die Stadt	die St <u>ädte</u>	city / cities
der Sohn	die S <u>öhne</u>	son / sons



11. way: change the stem vowel and add an "er" to the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
das Wort	die <u>Wörter</u>	word / words
der Mann	die <u>Männer</u>	man / men
das Buch	die <u>Bücher</u>	book / books

12. way: irregular change of the noun

<i>singular</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>translation</i>
das Datum	die <u>Daten</u>	date / dates
der Bus	die <u>Busse</u>	bus / buses
die Firma	die <u>Firmen</u>	company / companies

last hints

As you already recognized the article of the plural nouns always is: **die**
 It doesn't matter if the singular form has "der", "die" or "das" for an article.

When we learn a new word I will always give you the plural form too. To save space we will shorten the plural form this way:

plural form	abbreviation
add an "e"	+e
add a "n"	+n
add a "s"	+s
add an "en"	+en
add an "er"	+er
add an "se"	+se
add an "nen"	+nen
add nothing	same
stem vowel change	¨
stem vowel change and add an "e"	¨, e
stem vowel change and add an "er"	¨, er
irregular change	the word itself
noun has no plural form	no

If there is more than one vowel in a noun then I marked the vowel which has to be changed: der Anzug -> die Anzüge (suit/suits) marked as: ¨ (2nd), +e