

Singular and Plural

Nouns are words which stand for things.

Most nouns have two forms: *singular* when they stand for one thing, *plural* when they stand for two or more. The *Oxford English Dictionary for Schools* gives both forms:

word NOUN words

Complete these two tables:

1

| singular | plural |
|------------|--------|
| town | |
| horse | |
| friend | |
| shoe | |
| engine | |
| computer | |
| politician | |
| river | |

2

| singular | plural |
|----------|--------|
| church | |
| ferry | |
| calf | |
| spy | |
| tooth | |
| helix | |
| child | |
| formula | |
| aircraft | |
| mouse | |

3 What is the difference between the plurals in Table 1 and the plurals in Table 2?

4 Find and fill in the *singular* forms of these nouns:

| singular | plural |
|----------|-----------|
| | losses |
| | pyramids |
| | sponges |
| | apples |
| | potatoes |
| | alleys |
| | sheep |
| | enquiries |
| | fungi |
| | hippies |

5 Sort these nouns into two sets, singular and plural:

**dahlia criteria media fuchsia
gorilla bacteria**

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