

There are certain words we use in:

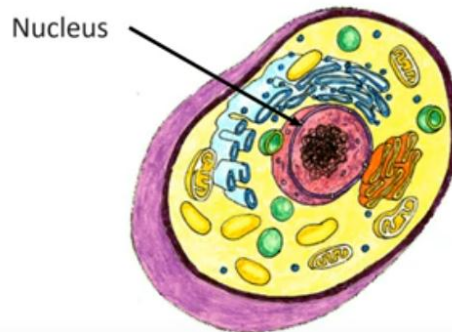
- **SCIENCE**
- **MATHEMATICS**
- borrowed from **Latin** or **Greek**
- retain their Latin or Greek plurals

Rules in Pluralizing Science Words

Latin three genders for nouns:

- Masculine
- Feminine
- Neuter

← masculine nouns end in **-us** and are pluralized **-i**



Singular	Plural
nucle <u>u</u> s	nucle <u>i</u>

Nucleus is an organelle found in eukaryotic cells.

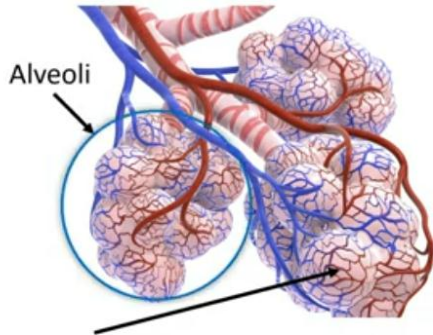
masculine nouns end in **-us** and are pluralized **-i**



Singular	Plural
fung <u>u</u> s	fung <u>i</u>

A **fungus** is any member of the group of eukaryotic organisms that includes microorganisms such as yeasts and molds.

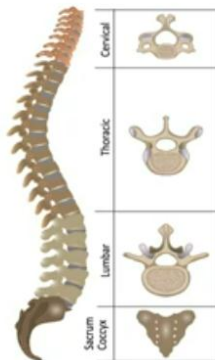
masculine nouns end in **-us** and are pluralized **-i**



Alveolus any of the many tiny air sacs of the lungs which allow for rapid gaseous exchange.

Singular	Plural
alveol <u>u</u> s	alveol <u>i</u>

most feminine nouns end in **-a** and are pluralized **-ae**



Singular	Plural
vertebr <u>a</u>	vertebr <u>ae</u>

Vertebra bones of the spinal column / backbone.

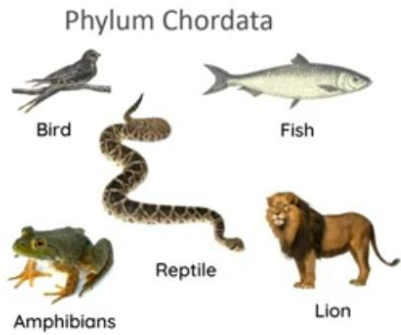
most neuter nouns end in **-um** and take the plural ending **-a**



Singular	Plural
bacteri <u>u</u> m	bacteri <u>a</u>

Bacterium a member of a large group of unicellular microorganisms.

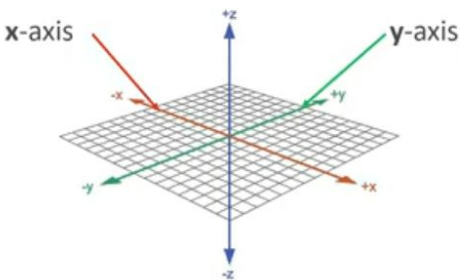
most neuter nouns end in **-um** and take the plural ending **-a**



Singular	Plural
phyl <u>um</u>	phyl <u>a</u>

Phylum a level of classification or taxonomic rank below kingdom and above class.

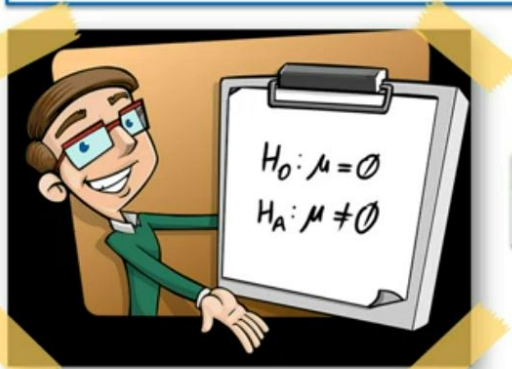
Nouns with an **-is** ending can be made plural by changing **-is** to **-es**.



Singular	Plural
ax <u>is</u>	ax <u>es</u>

Axis a fixed reference line for the measurement of coordinates.

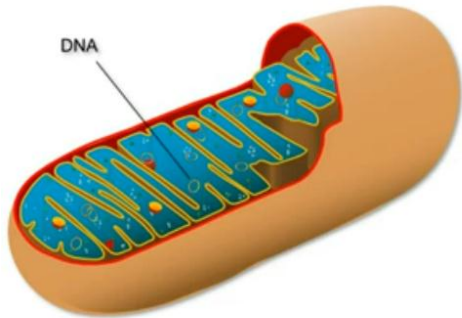
Nouns with an **-is** ending can be made plural by changing **-is** to **-es**.



Singular	Plural
hypothesis <u>is</u>	hypothesis <u>es</u>

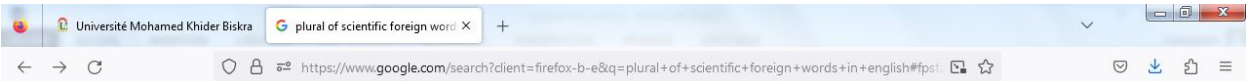
Hypothesis is a statement of expectation or prediction that can be tested through experiment.

Greek words change their **-on** ending to **-a**.

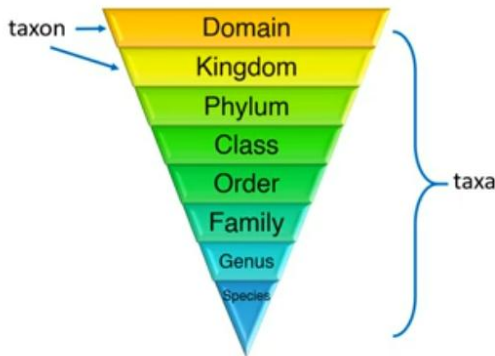


Singular	Plural
mitochondr <u>ion</u>	mitochondr <u>ia</u>

Mitochondrion known as the “powerhouse of the cell” where cellular respiration takes place.



Greek words change their **-on** ending to **-a**.

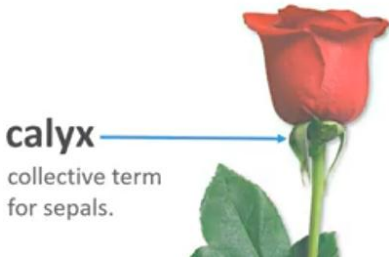


Singular	Plural
taxon <u>on</u>	taxa <u>a</u>

Taxon any unit used in the science of biological classification, or taxonomy.



Nouns ending in **-x / -ix** are changed to **-ices**



Singular	Plural
calyx <u>x</u>	calyces <u>es</u>

Plural form of foreign nouns

Simple and quite rules of creating plural get a little complicated when it comes to words of foreign origin especially from classical Greek, Latin, French and Italian. Some words create plural by adding an ending -s, in others stand rules imported from original languages. Sometimes those two forms are correct.

Nouns ending with -us get an ending -i or -s:

cactus – cacti/cactuses
fungus – fungi/funguses
hippopotamus – hippopotami/ hippopotamuses
octopus – octopi/octopuses
radius – radii

Nouns ending with -um get an ending -a or -s:

Bacterium – bacteria
curriculum – curricula/curriculum
medium – media

Nouns ending with -on get an ending -a:

criterion – criteria
automaton – automata

Nouns ending with -ex or -vix get an ending -ices or -s:

index – indices/indexes
matrix – matrices/matrixes

Nouns ending with -is get an ending -es:

analysis – analyses
basis – bases
crisis – crises
diagnosis – diagnoses
hypothesis – hypotheses
oasis – oases
thesis – theses

Nouns ending with -a get an ending -ae or -s:

antena – antennae/antennas
formula – formulae/formulas
larva – larvae

spelling: plurals of foreign nouns

Many nouns that have come into English from other languages continue to form their plurals according to the rules for pluralization in the source language. However, some have an English plural form in addition to, or instead of, the foreign form. In some cases, the different plural forms have different meanings or uses.

Note the following singular and plural forms.

Nouns ending in *-a*

- alumna: alumnae
- antenna: antennae (*feelers*) **or** antennas (*aerials*)
- formula: formulas **or** formulae

Nouns ending in *-eau*

- bureau: bureaus (*British: bureaux*)
- plateau: plateaus or plateaux

Nouns ending in *-ex* or *-ix*

- appendix: appendixes **or** appendices
- index: indexes (*of a book*) **or** indices (*in mathematics, statistics*)
- matrix: matrices

Nouns ending in *-is*

- analysis: analyses
- basis: bases
- crisis: crises
- ellipsis: ellipses
- hypothesis: hypotheses
- parenthesis: parentheses

Nouns ending in *-on*

- criterion: criteria
- phenomenon: phenomena

Nouns ending in *-um*

- addendum: addenda
- bacterium: bacteria
- erratum: errata
- medium: mediums **or** media (*check dictionary for plural form to use in a given context*)
- memorandum: memorandums **or** memoranda
- symposium: symposiums **or** symposia

Nouns ending in *-us*

- alumnus: alumni
- bus: buses
- census: censuses
- focus: focuses **or** foci (*not focusses, which is a verb form*)
- nucleus: nuclei
- surplus: surpluses