

IRREGULAR PLURAL NOUNS

A. Cases of allomorphy of the root morpheme

1. Vowel change in the root → the plural form is an allomorph of the root morpheme in the singular:

Foot – feet

Goose – geese

Louse – lice

Man – men

Woman - women

Mouse – mice

Tooth – teeth

2. Voiceless fricative in the singular → voiced fricative in the plural (the plural form is an allomorph of the root morpheme in the singular) + the regular suffix:

Calf – calves

Elf – elves

Half – halves

Knife – knives

Life – lives

Loaf – loaves

Self – selves

Sheaf – sheaves

Shelf – shelves

Thief – thieves

Wife – wives

Wolf - wolves

B. Suffixes

3. Zero-allomorph of the plural suffix –s:

Aircraft – aircraft__

Bison – bison ___
Deer – deer ___
Grouse – grouse ___
Sheep – sheep ___
Species – species ___
Swine – swine ___
Trout – trout ___
Tuna – tuna ___

4. Suffix -(r)en:

Brother - breth**ren**
Child – child**ren**
Ox – ox**en**

5. Suffix -a:

Addendum – addend**a**
Bacterium – bacteri**a**
Corpus – corpor**a**
Criterion – criteri**a**
Curriculum – curricul**a**
Datum – dat**a**
Erratum – errat**a**
Genus – gener**a**
Medium – medi**a**
Phenomenon - phenom**ena**
Stratum – strat**a**

6. Suffix -i (pronounced as [aɪ] or [i:]):

Alumnus – alumn i	[ə'λʌmnəs] - [ə'λʌmnaɪ]/ [ə'λʌmni:]
Bacillus – bacill i	[bə'sɪləs] - [bə'sɪlaɪ]/ [bə'sɪli:]
Cactus – cact i (also cactuses)	
Focus – foc i	['fəʊkəs] - ['fəʊsaɪ]/ ['fəʊkaɪ]/ ['fəʊsi:]
Fungus – fung i	['fʌŋgəs] - ['fʌŋgi:] / ['fʌŋgaɪ]
Locus – loc i	['ləʊkəs] - ['ləʊsaɪ]/ ['ləʊkaɪ]

Nucleus – nuclei ['nju:kləs] - ['nju:klɪrɪ] / ['nju:kli:]
Stimulus – stimuli
Syllabus – syllabi (also syllabuses)

7. Suffix –ae (pronounced as [aɪ] or [i:]):

Alga – algae ['ælgə] - ['ældʒi:]
Alumna – alumnae
Formula – formulae
Larva – larvae
Nebula – nebulae

8. Suffix –es [i:z] typical for words of Greek origin ending in -is:

Analysis – analyses
Axis – axes
Basis – bases
Crisis – crises
Diagnosis – diagnoses
Ellipsis – ellipses
Oasis – oases
Parenthesis -parentheses
Prognosis – prognoses
Thesis – theses