

Noun endings

Objective

To practise writing plural nouns ending in '-s', '-es' and '-ies'.

Background knowledge

The children will need to know that nouns are words that tell us the names of things (common nouns), people and places (proper nouns). Explain that the test of whether a word is a common noun, rather than a proper noun, is that you can put 'the', 'a' or 'an' in front of it. Although there are no proper nouns in these activities, you may wish to link this work with more general work on nouns, in which case the children should know that proper nouns always start with a capital letter. They should also know that singular nouns refer to one of anything, whereas plural nouns refer to any number greater than one. Note that this section deals only with regular nouns, so irregular nouns are not included, such as 'sheep', which is the same in both its singular and plural forms.

Remind the children that to form the final letter 's' at the end of these plural nouns, they do not need to go over to drop on. Instead, end low, curve up (like the curve in end-high diagonal joins) and stop when they hit the top of the body. Draw their pencil slightly back down the stroke they have just made before forming the bottom curl of the 's'.

Activities

● Photocopiable page 50 'Just one -s'

In this activity the children will pluralise common nouns by adding the letter 's' to the singular noun using end-low drop-on joins and end-high drop-on joins. As an extra challenge, ask the children to complete the table again with plural nouns of their own.

● Photocopiable page 51 'Say yes to -es'

As all the words in this activity end in '-es' you may wish the children to practise writing this letter pattern before they complete the sheet. Some children may find the 'es' letter pattern difficult as there is a lot to fit into a small space. Encourage them to practise starting a little larger and gradually refining down to a more acceptable size. It is easy to misspell this suffix, as it sounds more like 'is' when it is added to the root nouns. This is one of those occasions where, in order to be successful spellers, the children must use their visual rather than their auditory memory.

● Photocopiable page 52 'More than one'

The focus of this activity is to practise the 'ies' letter pattern using end-low drop-on joins. Reassure the children that the '-ies' ending is easy to remember, as it only occurs when changing singular nouns that end in '-y', so it should not be confused with the '-es' plural from the previous activity (even though it may sound similar). Remind them to use only a light dot above the letter 'i', and to place it carefully over the stroke of the letter, once they have completed the word.

Further ideas

● **Shop labels:** Invite the children to draw, paint or cut out pictures of items that might be sold in a shop – they could have fun deciding what sort of shop they want. Each of the items in their shop window should have labels written in the appropriate plural form. This activity will reinforce the rule that there are no apostrophes in non-possessive plurals.

What's on the CD-ROM

On the CD-ROM you will find:

- Animations of the joins.
- All of the photocopiable sheets.