

UNIT
17

Unusual Plurals

Read and Say

Basic

1. *nucleus*
2. *nuclei*
3. *bacterium*
4. *bacteria*
5. *analysis*
6. *analyses*
7. *diagnosis*
8. *diagnoses*
9. *criterion*
10. *criteria*
11. *datum*
12. *data*
13. *thesis*
14. *theses*
15. *fungus*
16. *fungi*
17. *oasis*
18. *oases*
19. *cactus*
20. *cacti*

READ the sentences. **SAY** each bold word.

- 1 The captain is the **nucleus** of a team.
- 2 Two **nuclei** form when a cell splits in two.
- 3 One tiny **bacterium** can make you ill.
- 4 The **bacteria** in yeast make dough rise.
- 5 I completed my **analysis** of the graph.
- 6 The experts gave **analyses** of the elections.
- 7 A blood test will help with the **diagnosis**.
- 8 Do the **diagnoses** of the doctors agree?
- 9 Is correct spelling the only **criterion**?
- 10 List your **criteria** for awarding the prize.
- 11 Each **datum** in the report was checked twice.
- 12 Did you collect **data** from all these sources?
- 13 You must support your **thesis** with facts.
- 14 We debated the opposing **theses** in class.
- 15 A blue **fungus** often grows on old bread.
- 16 Molds are among the **fungi** we are studying.
- 17 The camels hurried to the **oasis** to drink.
- 18 Palm trees can grow in the dunes at **oases**.
- 19 Wet the sand before planting the **cactus**.
- 20 Spines protect **cacti** from thirsty animals.

-um or -on Changed to -a

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

-us Changed to -i

- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
- 11 _____
- 12 _____

-is Changed to -es

- 13 _____
- 14 _____
- 15 _____
- 16 _____
- 17 _____
- 18 _____
- 19 _____
- 20 _____



Spelling Strategy

SINGULAR: bacterium, criterion, nucleus, analysis
PLURAL: bacteria, criteria, nuclei, analyses

Think and Write Write each pair of Basic Words under the heading that tells how its singular ending is changed to form the plural.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Review | 23. heroes |
| 21. halves | 24. studios |
| 22. shelves | 25. chiefs |

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Challenge | 28. curriculum |
| 26. phenomenon | 29. curricula |
| 27. phenomena | |

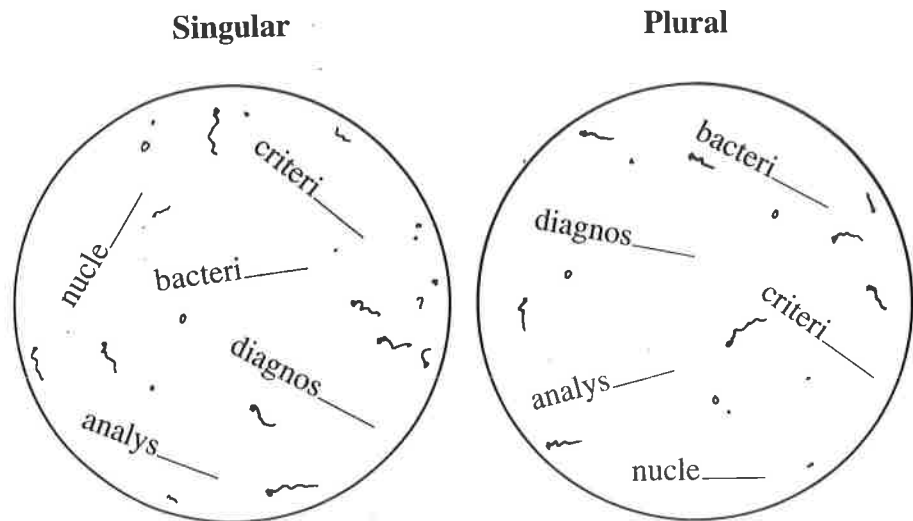
PRACTICE A

Unusual Plurals

Summing Up

Words from Latin and Greek often have unusual plural forms.

How Many? 1-10. Complete the Basic Words on the microscope slides by adding the correct letters.



Basic Words	
1.	nucleus
2.	nuclei
3.	bacterium
4.	bacteria
5.	analysis
6.	analyses
7.	diagnosis
8.	diagnoses
9.	criterion
10.	criteria

-is to -es

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____

-um or -on to -a

- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____

-us to -i

- 9. _____
- 10. _____

Now write each pair of Basic Words in the column that has the same singular and plural forms.

Riddle Scramble Write the Basic Word that fits each clue.

- 11. a medical conclusion ○ ○
- 12. lists of requirements ○ ○
- 13. more than one analysis ○ ○
- 14. the center of a cell ○
- 15. a rule or standard ○ ○
- 16. one-celled organisms ○

Now unscramble the circled letters to answer this riddle: *Where does thirty come before twenty?*

Answer: in the _____

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Basic Words

1. nucleus
2. nuclei
3. bacterium
4. bacteria
5. analysis
6. analyses
7. diagnosis
8. diagnoses
9. criterion
10. criteria
11. datum
12. data
13. thesis
14. theses
15. fungus
16. fungi
17. oasis
18. oases
19. cactus
20. cacti

PRACTICE B

Unusual Plurals

Analogies Write the Basic Word that completes each analogy.

1. apple : fruit :: mushroom : _____
2. boundary : perimeter :: center : _____
3. city : park :: desert : _____
4. story : novel :: report : _____
5. animal : lizard :: plant : _____
6. investigate : analyze :: investigation : _____
7. telescope : star :: microscope : _____
8. law : rule :: standard : _____
9. examine : diagnose :: examination : _____
10. verdict : evidence :: decision : _____

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

Word Search 11–20. Find ten Basic Words hidden in the puzzle. The words appear horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. Circle each word and then write it.

```

c
  d o r
    f i n a i
      o x a b n s t
        f o u b a a u e e
          s u s e p c l x c s r
            d u n o b o t y s a l v i
              d i a g n o s e s t c p e t a
                a x i l u r r e m t a m i
                  t a s l s i s d i o t
                    p b c d a t u m e
                      t h e s e s t
                        g o u d c
                          b y i
                            e
    
```

11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

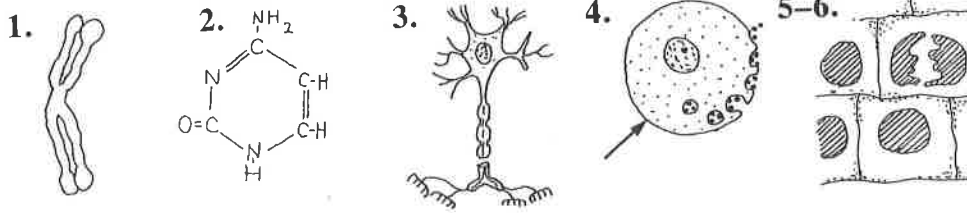
EXTRA! Make your own word search puzzle in another shape. Exchange your puzzle with a classmate. Then solve one another's puzzles.

Name _____

PRACTICE C

Unusual Plurals

Name That Sketch Jason made sketches during biology class but forgot to label them. Write the Vocabulary Words that name the pictures. Two words fit one of the pictures. You may want to use an encyclopedia or a biology book.



- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____

Challenge Words

- 1. phenomenon
- 2. phenomena
- 3. curriculum
- 4. curricula

Theme Vocabulary

- 5. membrane
- 6. diffusion
- 7. mutation
- 8. cellular
- 9. molecule
- 10. tissue
- 11. chromosome
- 12. neuron

Word Relatives Write the Challenge or Vocabulary Words that complete the first sentence in the sentence pairs or the first two sentences in the groups of three. Then write a form of the Challenge or Vocabulary Words to complete the last sentence in these groups. You may want to use a class dictionary.

- A. The cat's eye color was caused by a (7) in its mother's genes. The plant was a (8) because it had inherited a change in its genes that made it different from its parents.
- B. A water (9) is made of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. A scientist who works in the areas of physics, chemistry, and biology is called a (10) biologist.
- C. Nutrients entered the cell through the process of (11). The sheer drapes helped to (12) the light in the room.
- D. Plants and animals have very different (13) structures. The basic unit of life is the (14).
- E. Weather is a natural (15). Scientists were baffled by the cases of unexplained (16). Dana impressed the audience with her (17) acting abilities.
- F. The school's (18) varies slightly from year to year. The national conference examined the difference between various school systems' (19). Frank plays football and participates in other (20) activities.

- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____

Skill: Students will practice spelling words with unusual plurals and words related to the theme of the study of cells.

Home Use: Help your child practice the spelling words by having him or her complete the activities on this page. Check the completed page, and have your child practice saying and spelling any misspelled words.

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