

Lesson 8: Unusual Plurals

Each Spelling Word is either an unusual plural or the singular form of an unusual plural.

Sort the Spelling Words in a way that will help you remember them. Three examples are given. Fill in the last one as you are sorting.

SINGULARS ENDING IN -US <u>octopus</u> _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	PLURALS ENDING IN -A OR -AE <u>data, alumnae</u> _____ _____ _____
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PLURALS ENDING IN -I <u>alumni</u> _____ _____ _____	OTHER _____ _____ _____ _____
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Spelling Words

1. *goldfish*
2. *trout*
3. *moose*
4. *cactus*
5. *media*
6. *fungi*
7. *bacteria*
8. *stimulus*
9. *stimuli*
10. *larvae*
11. *radius*
12. *nucleus*
13. *nuclei*
14. *species*
15. *salmon*
16. *hippopotamus*

Your Own Words

Look for other words that have unusual plurals, and add them to the lists. In an aquarium, you might see the words *algae* and *jellyfish*. When might you use the word *curricula* and *alumni*?

17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

Some words have unusual plural forms.

- The plural form of words whose singular ends in *-us* often ends in *-i*.
- Some words have the same singular and plural form.
- Other unusual plural forms end in *-a* or *-ae*.

Lesson 8: Unusual Plurals (continued) Assign # _____

Spelling Clues: Word Shapes Sometimes thinking about the shape of a word can help you remember the correct spelling. Is the whole word long and flat? Does a letter at the beginning of the word drop below the line? Do two letters at the end rise above the others? Keep these shape clues in mind when you write.

Write the Spelling Word that fits each shape.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1.  | 3.  |
| 2.  | 4.  |

Proofreading 5–10. Proofread this paragraph. Circle the misspelled words and write each one correctly.

Jody had always been interested in goaldfishes, but the stimilius to take deep-sea diving lessons was a show he saw on public television. The medea reported that a scientist had found evidence that deadly bacteria and funji had been invading the coral reefs. This was the reason that so many species were now endangered. Jody thought he might be able to help if he learned to dive but found he was not comfortable unless he stayed within a hundred-foot radias of the boat.

Fun with Words Read the rhymes, and write the Spelling Word that tells who or what is talking.

11. I'm a fish who has a very hard task.

I swim upstream. Do you think I'll last?

12–13. One of me ends in *us*. An *i* ends two of me.

To atoms we're a must. But we're very hard to see.

14. We started out as tiny eggs.

We'll soon be bugs with many legs.

15. I live by the river. I'm too fat to dance.

I drink lots of water and
eat lots of plants.

16. I don't need much water.

I don't like the sea.
I do like the desert. Can you name me?



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____