

What are Plural Nouns?

Quite simply, "plural nouns" are two or more of the same noun.

IN ENGLISH, PLURALS ARE FORMED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS (IN DESCENDING ORDER OF FREQUENCY):

- 1) add an "-(e)s": cell phone > cell phones;
leash > leashes
- 2) change a vowel within the word: man > men
- 3) do nothing: one fish > many fish
- 4) do something weird: child > children



NOTE! The plural nouns discussed here are indefinite plural nouns. For definite plural nouns, see next page.



IN DANISH THERE ARE ALSO 4 WAYS TO FORM PLURAL

- 1) add "-(e)r": pige (girl) > piger (girls)
- 2) add "-e": dreng (boy) > drenge (boys)
- 3) do nothing: fisk (fish) > fisk (fish)
- 4a) Change a vowel within the word
barn (child) > børn (children)
- 4b) change a vowel and add an ending
hånd > hænder (hand > hands)
datter > døtre (daughter > daughters)
bog > bøger (book > books)

In many Danish grammar books, the plurals are divided into "Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and 'Irregular'" as above. Sometimes they refer to these groups without telling you what they mean, so now you know!

Definite Plural Nouns

In English we put "the" in front of a plural noun to make it definite: *boys > the boys*.
 In Danish it is a bit different. The ending "-ne" is added to the plural form of the word. Study this grid and you will see how the rules apply.

Indefinite Singular ("a" word)	Definite Singular ("the" word)	Indefinite Plural (words)	Definite Plural ("the" words)
Group 1 (article+base word)	add article to base word	add (e)r to base word	add ne to indefinite plural
en pige (a girl)	pigen (the girl)	piger (girls)	piger ne (the girls)
et billede (a picture)	billedet (the picture)	billeder (pictures)	billeder ne (the pictures)
en kat (a cat)	katten (the cat)	katter (cats)	katter ne (the cats)
Group 2 (article+base word)	add article to base word	add -e to the base word	add ne to indefinite plural
en ost (a cheese)	osten (the cheese)	oste (cheeses)	oste ne (the cheeses)
et land (a country)	landet (the country)	lande (countries)	lande ne (the countries)
Group 3 (article+base word)	add article to base word	Do nothing.	add e to the indefinite plural, then add ne
et ord (a word)	ordet (the word)	ord (words)	ord e ne (the words)
et tog (a train)	toget (the train)	tog (trains)	tog e ne (the trains)
et glas (a glass)	glasset (the glass)	glas (glasses)	glas e ne (the glasses)

Note that 1) in the case of Group 3, an "e" is added to the plural and then the "ne" is added; 2) if the definite singular contains a double letter, so will the definite plural

