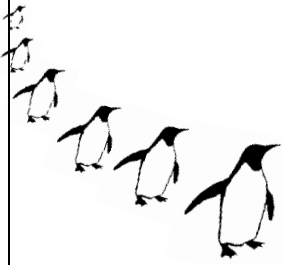


Plural Nouns



In English we use -s, -es, and irregular plural nouns to indicate more than one thing, and sometimes we make no change.

Examples

penguin-penguins, bush-bushes, goose-geese, deer-deer



Danish also has FOUR different ways to indicate a plural

1) **-er** (or -r, if the word already ends in "e"): This is the most common plural.

Examples: gave-gaver (*gift/s*), træ-træer (*tree/s*), flaske-flasker (*bottle/s*), sofa-sofaer (*sofa/s*)

2) **-e**: This is the second most common plural.

Examples: dag-dage (*day/s*), stol-stole (*chair/s*), sang-sange (*song/s*), bæk-bænke (*bench/es*)

3) **-**: Add nothing. This is the third most common plural. It is more common than in English.

Examples: dyr-dyr (*animal/s*), glas-glas (*glass/es*), mus-mus (*mouse, mice*),

4) **irregular**: There are a few of these, just as there are in English.

Examples: mand-mænd (*man-men*), kartoffel-kartofler (*potato/es*), mor-mødre (*mom/s*) *tå-tæer* (*toe/s*)

Note! Some words double their final consonant before adding the plural. This does not make them irregular.

RULE OF THUMB: If the stressed syllable contains a short vowel + 1 consonant, then double the consonant and add plural ending.

Examples: hat-hatte (*hat/s*), butik-butikker (*shop/s*), ven-venner (*friend/s*), hotel-hoteller (*hotel/s*)

Dictionary Notations

In the Red Dictionaries and some of the others, the plural is given right after the gender of the word: [for example, *vindue* (*et, -r*)] This means that the word *vindue* is an "et" word (*et vindue*) and you add "r" to make a plural (*vinduer*). Some dictionaries also indicate when to double the consonant. I prefer to give you the gender first, and the plural afterward. If the plural is irregular, the entire plural is given.

en blyant, -er (*pencil*)
et barn, børn

This means *en blyant* = a pencil, *blyanten* = the pencil, and *blyanter* = pencils
This means *et barn* = a child, *barnet* = the child, and *børn* = children

Plurals Exercise: Fill in the columns with the indefinite singular, the definite singular, and the plural

Word	Meaning	Singular indefinite (a, an)	Singular definite (the)	Plural
en svamp, -e	mushroom	<u>en svamp</u>	<u>svampen</u>	<u>svampe</u>
en pude, -r	pillow	<u>en pude</u>	<u>puden</u>	<u>puder</u>
en tand, tænder	tooth	<u>en tand</u>	<u>tanden</u>	<u>tænder</u>
en kat, -te	cat	<u>en kat</u>	<u>katten</u>	<u>katte</u>
et eksempel, eksempler	example	<u>et eksempel</u>	<u>eksemplet</u>	<u>eksempler</u>
et bær, -	berry	<u>et bær</u>	<u>bæret</u>	<u>bær</u>