Irregular Plural Nouns

Objectives
In this mini-lesson, students will:
• Identify irregular plural nouns.
• Understand how to spell singular nouns and irregular plural nouns ending with f or fe.
• Write using irregular plural nouns.

Preparation

Materials Needed
• Chart paper and markers
• Pictures or actual objects representing irregular plural nouns
• Irregular Plural Nouns (BLM 6)
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation
If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling and practice texts onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Irregular Plural Nouns
Say: When we want to make most nouns plural, we just add an -s to the end of the word. For example, to make the word dog plural, we just add -s to make dogs. Some nouns end with f or fe. When a noun ends with either f or fe, we need to change the f or fe to ves. These are called irregular plural nouns.

Model Using Irregular Plural Nouns
Display the modeling text on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources.

After that, peel a banana and slice it with a table knife. Pull off the leaves, and put the strawberries in the bowl.

Modeling Text
Say: Look at the word knife. To make knife plural, we need to change the fe to ves to make knives. (Write the words knife and knives on chart paper or on the board.) Now look at the word leaves. Leaves is plural and has the ending ves. The letter f in leaf was changed to ves to make the plural word leaves. Write the words leaves and leaf on chart paper or use the whiteboard.

2. Rehearse

Practice Using Irregular Plural Nouns
Display the practice text on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources. At this point, display only the first column with the singular forms. Students will help you build the chart. Ask students to work with a partner to read each word and then write the irregular plural for each noun.
Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning
Work with beginning ELs to support them with regular plural nouns. Show students familiar objects or pictures that are regular plural nouns. Name each object, and then say the plural form of each object. Write the names of the objects on chart paper, showing how to add the -s to make the words plural.

Intermediate and Advanced
Pair students with fluent English speakers during the partner practice.

All Levels
If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share the following English/ Spanish cognates: irregular/irregular; plural/plural.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: Remember that singular nouns that end in f or fe have an irregular form. We need to change the f or the fe to ves to make the words plural.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using irregular plural nouns, have them complete BLM 6.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to read aloud their answers to BLM 6. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback. Ask students to share what they learned about irregular plural nouns.

Irregular Plurals Practice Text

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Words with Irregular Plural Nouns

Invite students to share the irregular plural nouns that they wrote and record the correct plural forms in the right-hand column of the anchor chart. Use the question prompts below to have students discuss the plural forms. Post the anchor chart on the wall for students to refer to as they are writing.

- What did you have to do in order to make each word plural?
- Which words ended with f?
- Which words ended with fe?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular Form</th>
<th>Plural Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>loaf</td>
<td>loaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoof</td>
<td>hooves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wife</td>
<td>wives</td>
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<tr>
<td>elf</td>
<td>elves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>scarf</td>
<td>scarves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>life</td>
<td>lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thief</td>
<td>thieves</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Irregular Plurals Practice Text