Irregular Plural Nouns

1. Focus

Explain Irregular Plural Nouns

Say: When we want to make most nouns plural, we add an -s or an -es to
the end of the word. For example, to make the word car plural we just add -s
to make cars. To make the word dish plural we add an -es to make the word
dishes. Some nouns end with if. When a noun ends with the letters if, like
the word calf, I know that I need to change the f to ves to make that noun plural.
These nouns are called irregular plural nouns because they have a spelling
change.

Model Using Irregular Plural Nouns

Display the modeling text on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard
resources and read it aloud to students.

We had a new baby calf yesterday. Now we have a total of five baby calves.

Modeling Text

Say: I see the word calf in the first sentence. Calf is a singular noun that ends
with if. To make calf a plural noun, I know that I have to change the final letter f
to ves to make the word calves.

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

• Identify irregular plural nouns.
• Understand the rule for changing singular nouns ending with if into
plural nouns.
• Write using irregular plural nouns.

Preparation

Materials Needed

• Chart paper and markers
• Irregular Plural Nouns (BLM 8)
• 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.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using Irregular Plural Nouns

Display the practice text on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources. Provide only the left column of the chart, as students will help build the anchor chart. Ask students to work with a partner to read each word aloud and then discuss how to spell either the singular or irregular form of each word that goes in the blank.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>wolf</th>
<th>wolves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>shelf</td>
<td>shelves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>halves</td>
<td>half</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>selves</td>
<td>self</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Irregular Plurals Practice Text

Share Words with Irregular Plural Nouns

Invite students to share the irregular plural nouns that they made. Discuss their responses by asking the following questions:

• Which nouns are singular? Which are plural?
• How did you have to change the spelling in each noun in order to make it a plural noun?
• How did you change the spelling in each noun to make it a singular noun?
• Why do we call words like wolves and calves irregular plural nouns?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: As we are writing, we need to be aware of any nouns that end with \( \text{lf} \). If we want to make those words plural, then we need to remember to change the \( \text{f} \) to \( \text{ves} \) to form the irregular plural noun.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using irregular plural nouns, have them complete BLM 8.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share their answers to BLM 8. Provide corrective feedback as necessary.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Work one on one with ELs to help them understand how irregular plural nouns are spelled. Draw a sketch of a calf on chart paper or show a photo using the interactive whiteboard resources. Name the calf and label the sketch or picture. Point out that there is just one calf. Then, show students pictures of more than one calf or draw several calves on chart paper. Point out that now there is more than one calf. Label the picture or sketch with the plural form of the word.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers. Encourage them to work together to write either the singular form of nouns or the irregular plural form of each noun. Ask students to use each word in an oral sentence.

All Levels

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