

VIVA COLLEGE SCHOOL

SENIOR ONE CLASS WORK

COMPREHENSION

NB. ATTEMPT THIS IN YOUR CLASS BOOKS

- 1. Read the following passage from a book called “A Dakar Childhood” by Nafissatou Dialo, a female writer from Guinea and answer the questions that follow.**

I was born in Titene on the 11th of March 1941 in the area known as the ‘Guards’ camp. Don’t try to find this camp; it is now the Iba Mar Diop Stadium. Our house was one of the few civilian’s houses in that area where the policemen, who guarded the Medina and its surroundings, were stationed.

The camp was surrounded by a wall with two gates, one to the north and the other to the south, through which we passed, in and out. This wall separated the camp from the rest of the area which consisted of huts and shacks, which were in some places grouped together in confusion. Through this area ran narrow sand streets, crowded with people and domestic animals.

Inside the camp, everything was orderly and quiet. The policemen’s quarters consisted of small wooden houses, painted yellow, arranged in straight rows. There were coconut palms and well kept vegetable gardens which provided us with our farm produce. The calm quietness and simplicity of the scene was reflected in the peaceful attractiveness of our home. The large brick houses had been built by my grandfather and father who ran a business which employed most of the males in our family. My uncles, cousins and brothers all helped in the construction of the house and created the character of the place.

Every inch of floor was cemented and every single door was made, by their own hands. We were very fond of our house because it was our small world in the great wide world. It was our place of refuge and security.

There were large rooms, high ceilings and huge windows –as big as doors – space everywhere; the house made you want to run and jump and shout, a feeling I remember with fondness.

The house was divided into two quite separate parts. The north wing was reserved for my father and his temporary guests. I lived in the south wing with my grandfather and his two wives, one of whom was my grandmother, my sisters, brother, uncles, aunts and cousins.

The very large courtyard was planted with all kinds of fruit trees: mangoes, pomegranates, guavas, paw paws. It was like a farm with all the domestic animals: ducks, hens and cockerel; sheep and goats; numerous cats that never left our home even when we children mistreated them.

Around the house there were two verandas, which, more than any of the rooms inside were the scenes of our sorrows and our joys: it was there that we had our meals and there that our family gatherings took

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Around the house there were two verandas, which, more than any of the rooms inside were the scenes of our sorrows and our joys: it was there that we had our meals and there that our family gatherings took place. Many village folks who came to the capital to look for work always stayed with us for some time. We always gathered on the verandas after supper in the evenings, shivering with cold or sweating with heat, according to the season, wide awake or heavy with sleep. There we listened, calmly or excited, to the tales and legends my grandmother told us.

‘Lèèbòn – once upon a time’, she would begin. ‘Lippòn – yes, yes!’ we chorused. ‘Amon na fi – there was a ...’ she continued. ‘Dana am – go on’, we replied.

‘... little girl called Kumba who had no mother and no father.’

That was our favorite story. We asked for it again and again. Sometimes she would tell us the legend of Leuk Daour, the one – legged horse, the local jinnee which, she said, galloped past the windows after midnight on Thursdays and Sundays. We were very afraid of this spirit. None of us would dare go outside after evening prayers on either of those days.

### Question

Write a summary indicating who the author is, what their home looked like, and what they liked about their home.



## 2. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Musa was one of the rich men in the Buwaiswa village. He owned cows, goats, sheep and two donkeys. Yokana, Musa's son, used to look after those animals every day. He always took the animals to graze. He would stay in the fields all day long. He got into a habit of calling for help even when he was not in danger. He would shout, "Lion, lion, please help, help ... heeeelp the lion has taken a goat."

Figure 1.3: Yokana grazing animals Whenever he shouted people came to help to chase away the lion but they found none. They always warned him not to lie about something as serious as that but he never listened. One day, a tiger came and grabbed a goat. Yokana shouted for help as he usually did. But this time nobody came to his help. The tiger killed two goats and a sheep and went away with another sheep. He went home feeling very miserable and scared that day. When he told the story to his family, everybody blamed him for being naughty and a liar.

### Questions

- 1) Where did Musa live?
- Did he have children?
- 3) Name some of the animals Musa had.
- 4) Why was Yokana always calling for help?
- 5) Who used to help Yokana to chase away the lion?
- 6) Why didn't the tiger attack Yokana?
- 7) What do you learn from Yokana's behaviour?
- 8) Suggest a suitable title for the story.

# Number: Types, Rules & Examples

In grammar, the **number** refers to the count of a noun or pronoun.

**Example:** Boy-boys, wife-wives, my-our, ox-oxen, it-they, etc.

**Types of Number:**

Two types exist

- Singular Number
- Plural Number

## Singular Number

It refers to the count of only one of a noun or pronoun.

**Example:** pen, table, aunt, father, goose, etc.

## Plural Number

It refers to the count of more than one of a noun or pronoun.

**Example:** pens, tables, aunts, fathers, geese, etc.

## How to change number

Numerous **RULES** are there to change the number from singular to plural. They are as follows-

### Rule 1:

In general “s” is used at the end of a singular noun to make it plural



## Example:

Singular	Plural
Pencil	Pencils
Cow	Cows
House	Houses
Dog	Dogs
Mobile	Mobiles

## Rule 2:

If there exist **s**, **sh**, **ch**, **x** and **z** in the end, “**es**” gets to be used.

### Examples:

Singular	Plural
Bus	Buses
Dish	Dishes
Branch	Branches
Fox	Foxes
Fez	Fezes

## Rule 3:

*While pronunciation of **ch** is like “**k**”, just “**s**” is added at the end*

### Example:

Singular	Plural
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Monarch	Monarchs
Patriarch	Patriarchs
Matriarch	Matriarchs
Stomach	Stomachs
Hierarch	Hierarchs

**Part 1:** *when there's a "y" in the end and a Consonant before that "y", "i" substitutes it and an "es" thereafter.*

**Example:**

Singular	Plural
Story	Stories
Hobby	Hobbies
Army	Armies
Fly	Flies
Baby	Babies

**Part 2:** *but if there's a vowel ahead of that "y", no need to change it, only "s" to add.*

Example	
Singular	Plural
Donkey	Donkeys
Toy	Toys



Day	Days
Joy	Joys
Play	Plays

## Rule 4:

“v” replaces f or fe and then adds an “es” to finish it.

**Example:**

Singular	Plural
thief	Thieves
Wife	Wives
Knife	Knives
Wolf	Wolves
Leaf	Leaves

**Part 1:** “es” to be added if the noun is finished by “o” and a consonant places ahead.

**Example:**

singular	Plural
Hero	Heroes
Mango	Mangoes
Zero	Zeroes
Potato	Potatoes

Echo	Echoes
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**Part 2:** but when there's a vowel before that "o", only "s" is enough.

**Example**

Singular	Plural
Cuckoo	Cuckoos
Bamboo	Bamboos
Studio	Studios
Portfolio	Portfolios
Cameo	Cameos

**Exception 1:** though there's an "o" and a consonant ahead of it, some nouns use only "s".

**Example:**

Singular	Plural
Photo	Photos
Piano	Pianos
Radio	Radios
Canto	Cantos
Memo	Memos

**Exception 2:** for some, "s" and "es" both are correct.

Singular	Plural
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Mosquito	Mosquitos/mosquitoes
Commando	Commandos/commandoes
Portico	Porticos/porticoes
Calico	Calicos/calicoes
Memento	Mementos/mementoes

## Rule 5:

Some require changing the middle-vowel of the word to make it plural.

### Example:

Singular	Plural
Man	Men
Woman	Women
Foot	Feet
Mouse	Mice
Tooth	Teeth

## Rule 6:

Some require **en**, **ren** and **ne** to add at last.

### Example:

Singular	plural
Ox	Oxen

Child	Children
Brother	Brethren (brothers also correct)
Cow	Kine (cows also correct)
Sister	Sistren (sisters also correct)

**Part 1:** if “man” means human being in a compound noun(a noun that contains two or more words that jointly make a single noun), “men”replaces that “man”.

**Example:**

singular	plural
Fisherman	Fishermen
Workman	Workmen
Boatman	Boatmen
Man-of-war	Men-of-war
Salesman	salesmen

**Part 2:** but when “man” is just a part of the word, or it refers to any ethnic group, race or civilian, there comes “s”.

Singular	Plural
Mussalman	Mussalmans
Brahman	Brahmans
German	Germans

Norman	Normans
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## Rule 7:

“s” to be added when there’s a “ful” in the end.

### Example:

singular	plural
Handful	Handfuls
Mouthful	mouthfuls
Spoonful	Spoonfuls
armful	Armfuls
cupful	cupfuls

**Part 1:** If compound noun contains several words, “s” comes to join with the main part of that noun.

### Example:

Singular	Plural
Brother-in-law	Brothers-in-law
Passers-by	Passers-by
Step-brother	Step-brothers
Commander-in-chief	Commanders-in-chief
Maid-servant	Maid-servants

**Part 2:** in some cases, “s” comes in every part to make it so.



### Example:

Singular	Plural
Lord-justice	Lords-justices
Man-servant	Men-servants
Woman-servant	Women-servants

### Rule 8:

Besides, adding “s” only in the end gets it done for few.

### Example:

Singular	Plural
Book-shelf	Book-shelves
Book-case	Book-cases
Major-general	Major-generals
Poet-laurete	Poet-lauretes
Forget-me-not	Forget-me-nots

### Rule 9:

Some singular nouns have no plural form, only used in singular.

### Example:

Furniture
Scenery

Issue
Bread
expenditure

## Rule 9:

Adversely, some are always used as a plural form.

### Example:

Mumps
Scissors
Trousers
Spectacles
Assets

## Rule 10:

Though some nouns seem like singular, but actually they are plural.

### Example:

Government
Peasantry
People
Cattle
Mankind

## Rule 11:

Similarly, some nouns seem like plural though they are singular.

### Example:

Physics
Politics
Ethics
News
Wages

## Rule 12:

Some have the same singular and plural form.

### Example:

Deer
Sheep
Species
Corps
Canon

## Rule 12:

In case of letters, numbers and other symbols, it takes an **apostrophe and s** to change it.

### Example:



Sam, write your g's and y's clearly.

John, add two 5's and three 8's.

## Rule 13:

There is no specific rule for changing the number of pronouns. It's all about memorizing.

Singular	plural	singular	plural
I	We	Him/her	Them
My	Our	Your	Your
Mine	Ours	This	These
Me	Us	That	Those
You	You	It	They
He/she	they	His/her	their