

Spanish Number (Singular/Plural)

Master Spanish plural formation rules

1. The Six Plural Rules - Master Them All!

Spanish plural formation follows clear, logical patterns!

Six rules cover almost every Spanish word you'll encounter



Rule 1: Vowel + s

gato → gatos

Ends in -a, -e, -i, -o, -u? Just add -s!



Rule 2: Consonant + es

animal → animales

Ends in consonant? Add -es!



Rule 3: -z → -ces

lápiz → lápices

-z changes to -c before adding -es!



Rule 4: -y → -ies

rey → reyes

-y after consonant changes to -i, add -es!



Rule 5: Accent Changes

nación → naciones

-ión, -án, -és lose accent!



Rule 6: Invariable

el/los lunes

-s or -x after unstressed vowel = no change!

2. Detailed Accent Rules - When Accents Change

Spanish accents change in plurals to maintain correct pronunciation. Here are the detailed rules:

Lose Accent in Plural

nación → naciones

alemán → alemanes

francés → franceses

jardín → jardines

melón → melones

común → comunes

Gain Accent in Plural

examen → exámenes

joven → jóvenes

origen → orígenes

To maintain stress on same syllable!

3. Real-Life Examples by Category

Basic Vowel → +s

mesa → mesas (table → tables)

libro → libros (book → books)

estudiante → estudiantes (student → students)

Consonant → +es

hotel → hoteles (hotel → hotels)

animal → animales (animal → animals)

doctor → doctores (doctor → doctors)

-z → -ces

lápiz → lápices (pencil → pencils)

luz → luces (light → lights)

pez → peces (fish → fish/fishes)

Invariable (No Change)

el/los lunes (Monday/Mondays)

la/las crisis (crisis/crises)

el/los virus (virus/viruses)

4. Common Plural Mistakes to Avoid

✗ **hotels**

✓ **hoteles**

Consonant endings need -es!

✗ **reys**

✓ **reyes**

-y after consonant becomes -ies!

✗ **náciones**

✓ **naciones**

Words ending in -ión lose accent!

✗ **casaes**

✓ **casas**

Vowel endings only need -s!

5. Quick Test / Mini Quiz

Test your understanding of Spanish plural formation! These questions cover all six rules from this guide.



1. Plural puzzle! What's the plural of 'libro' (book)?

- a) libro
- b) libros
- c) libres
- d) libroes



2. Z-change challenge! What's the plural of 'lápiz' (pencil)?

- a) lápizs
- b) lápizes
- c) lápices
- d) lápicess



3. Accent alert! What's the plural of 'nación' (nation)?

- a) naciones
- b) naciones
- c) nacións
- d) nacional



4. Invariable word! What's the plural of 'lunes' (Monday)?

- a) luneses
- b) lunes
- c) lunos
- d) lunis



5. Royal challenge! What's the plural of 'rey' (king)?

- a) reys
- b) reyes
- c) reies
- d) reyas

Visit spanishgrammar.co.uk/number-singular-plural#quiz for answers and explanations