Some nouns with foreign roots have regular and irregular plural forms (appendix / appendices / appendixes). Be consistent in the spelling you choose.

Note: Some writers now treat data as though it were singular, but the preferred practice is still to recognize that data is plural and takes a plural verb: The data are clear on this point: the pass/fail course has become outdated by events.

Compound nouns with hyphens generally form plurals by adding s or es to the most important word.

attorney general / attorneys general
mother-in-law / mothers-in-law

For some compound words that appear as one word, the same rule applies (passersby); for others, it does not (cupfuls).

If both words in the compound are equally important, add s to the second word: singer-songwriters.

A few words such as fish and sheep have the same forms for singular and plural.

**Exercise 60.1 Practicing spelling**

Write the correct plural form for each of the following words. Consult the preceding rules or a dictionary, as needed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Correct Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bentley</td>
<td>hoofs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>president-elect</td>
<td>potatoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>life</td>
<td>fungi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box</td>
<td>brother-in-laws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appendix</td>
<td>stereos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exercise 60.2 Practicing spelling**

Some words in the following list are misspelled. Circle each of the misspelled words, and write the correct spelling next to it.

either | boxing | hopping
hygiene | supplied | neighbor
dealer | neither | worried
buying | divorced | tring
exceed | manageable | receipt

**Words pronounced alike but spelled differently**

Homonyms sound alike but have different meanings and different spellings. The following is a list of common homonyms as well as words that are almost homonyms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Homonyms and Near Homonyms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>accept: “to take willingly”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>except: “to leave out” (verb); “but for” (preposition)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>affect: “to influence” (verb); “a feeling or an emotion” (noun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>effect: “to make or accomplish” (verb); “result” (noun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>all ready: “prepared”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>already: “by this time”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discreet: “tactful” or “prudent”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>discrete: “separate” or “distinct”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cite: “to quote or refer to”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sight: “spectacle, sense”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site: “place”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>desert: “dry, sandy place” (noun); “to leave” (verb)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dessert: “after-dinner course”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hear: “perceive by listening”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>here: “at this place”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>it’s: contraction for it is or it has</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>its: possessive pronoun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loose: “not tight”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lose: “to misplace”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>passed: past tense of pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>past: “former time”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peace: “quiet, harmony”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>piece: “part of”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plain: “simple”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plane: “aircraft” or “tool for leveling wood”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>precede: “to come before”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>proceed: “to go forward”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>principal: “most important” (adjective); “the head of an organization” or “a sum of money” (noun)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>principle: “a basic standard or law” (noun)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(continued)
COMMON HOMONYMS and NEAR HOMONYMS (continued)

their: possessive pronoun
there: adverb of place
they're: contraction for they are
to: indicating movement
too: “also”
two: number

weather: “atmospheric condition”
whether: “if it is or was true”

who's: contraction for who is
whose: possessive of who

COMMONLY MISSPELLED WORDS

A
abscence
accessible
accidentally
accommodate
achieve
address
amateur
analysis
analyze
apparent
appearance
appropriate
argument
athlete
average

B
basically
beginning
believe
beneficial
business

C
calendar
cemetery
certain

e
ecstasy

D
decision
definitely
descendant
desirable
desperate
discipline
discussion
disease
dissatisfied

efficient
eighth
embarrass
emphasize
entirely
environment
especially
exaggerate
exercise
existence

F
familiar
fascinate
February
foreign
fulfill

G
gauge
government
grammar
guarantee
guard

guarantee

H
harass

height
heroes
humorous
I
imagine
immediately
incredible
independence
individual
influential
intelligence
interest
irrelevant
irresistible

J
judge
judgment

K
knowledge

L
laboratory
license
luxury
lye

M
maintenance
marriage
meant
medicine
mischievous
misspelled
mortgage
muscle

N
necessary
neighbor

O
occasion
occur
official
opponent
opportunity

P
parallel
parliament
particularly
performance
permanent
permissible
persuade
pitiful
playwright
possess
practically
preference
prejudice
prevalent
privilege
professor
pronunciation

Q
questionnaire
quizzes

R
receive
recommend
referred
remembrance
reminisce
repetition
restaurant

S
sacrifice
schedule
secretary
seize
separate
similar
sincerely
sophomore
succeed
summary
surprise

t
technique
tendency
thorough

together
tomorrow
tragedy
twelfth

U
unanimous
unconscious
unnecessary
usually

V
vacuum
vengeance
villain

W
weird
wholly
writing

rhyme
rhythm
ridiculous

S
sacrifice
schedule
secretary
seize
separate
similar
sincerely
sophomore
succeed
summary
surprise

T
technique
tendency
thorough
together
tomorrow
tragedy
twelfth

U
unanimous
unconscious
unnecessary
usually

V
vacuum
vengeance
villain

W
weird
wholly
writing
Words commonly spelled wrongly are also included here.

Correct the spelling where necessary.

1) decideing
g) thier
b) swiming

Correct each word with an -ing ending.

3) (7)eloped
(8)The ancient mound
(9) if I had a poor
(10)instinct
(11)police arrested the thief
(12)inked
(13)shouldn't
(14) completed the course in nuclear
(15)Ellen's (scientists)
(16) players left
(17)received
(18)She said she (adored)

Use the letters in brackets to make a word which fits the space.

2) successful
(1) known
(2) physiological
(3) legions
(4) toto
(5) beautiful
(6) declining

Practice