



# Plural Nouns:

## Advanced Plurals: Foreign Origins and Special Cases

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. The country faced many \_\_\_\_ last year.  
a) crises  
b) crises  
c) crises  
d) crisis
2. The scientist performed several \_\_\_\_.  
a) analyses  
b) analyses  
c) analysies  
d) analysis
3. She submitted two \_\_\_\_ to the university.  
a) thesises  
b) thesies  
c) theses  
d) thesis
4. These \_\_\_\_ are hard to explain.  
a) phenomenes  
b) phenomenas  
c) phenomenies  
d) phenomena
5. The \_\_\_\_ for selecting candidates are very strict.  
a) criteria  
b) criterion  
c) criterias  
d) criteries
6. The \_\_\_\_ in yogurt are beneficial for health.  
a) bacteriums  
b) bacteria  
c) bacterias  
d) bacteries
7. The doctor made two different \_\_\_\_.  
a) diagnosises  
b) diagnosies  
c) diagnoses  
d) diagnosis
8. Both \_\_\_\_ were later proved wrong.  
a) hypothesises  
b) hypothesies  
c) hypothesis  
d) hypotheses
9. There are several \_\_\_\_ in the Sahara Desert.  
a) oases  
b) oasises  
c) oasies  
d) oasis
10. The \_\_\_\_ of these cells were examined under a microscope.  
a) nucleii  
b) nuclei  
c) nucleis  
d) nucleus
11. Where are my \_\_\_\_? I need to cut this paper.  
a) scissor  
b) scissorses  
c) scissors  
d) scissories

12. I need to buy new \_\_\_\_.
- a) trousers  
b) trouser  
c) trouserses  
d) trouseries
13. She can't see without her \_\_\_\_.
- a) glass  
b) glasses  
c) glassies  
d) glassen
14. These \_\_\_\_ are too tight.
- a) jean  
b) jeanses  
c) jeansies  
d) jeans
15. The \_\_\_\_ was very surprising today.
- a) news  
b) new  
c) newses  
d) newsies
16. Physics \_\_\_\_ a very interesting subject.
- a) are  
b) is  
c) were  
d) be
17. Economics \_\_\_\_ the study of how societies use resources.
- a) are  
b) have  
c) is  
d) were
18. The police \_\_\_\_ looking for the stolen car.
- a) is  
b) has  
c) are  
d) was
19. I need a new pair of \_\_\_\_.
- a) short  
b) shorties  
c) shortsese  
d) shorts
20. The \_\_\_\_ in the experiment were carefully controlled.
- a) stimuluses  
b) stimulis  
c) stimulus  
d) stimuli



## Answers

1. b) crises
2. a) analyses
3. c) theses
4. d) phenomena
5. a) criteria
6. b) bacteria
7. c) diagnoses
8. d) hypotheses
9. a) oases
10. b) nuclei
11. c) scissors
12. a) trousers
13. b) glasses
14. d) jeans
15. a) news
16. b) is
17. c) is
18. c) are
19. d) shorts
20. d) stimuli



# Explanations

## 1. “crises” (b)

'Crisis' comes from Greek. Its plural changes -is to -es: crisis → crises.

## 2. “analyses” (a)

'Analysis' comes from Greek. Its plural changes -is to -es: analysis → analyses.

## 3. “theses” (c)

'Thesis' comes from Greek. Its plural changes -is to -es: thesis → theses.

## 4. “phenomena” (d)

'Phenomenon' comes from Greek. Its plural changes -on to -a: phenomenon → phenomena.

## 5. “criteria” (a)

'Criterion' comes from Greek. Its plural changes -on to -a: criterion → criteria.

## 6. “bacteria” (b)

'Bacterium' comes from Latin. Its plural changes -um to -a: bacterium → bacteria.

## 7. “diagnoses” (c)

'Diagnosis' comes from Greek. Its plural changes -is to -es: diagnosis → diagnoses.

## 8. “hypotheses” (d)

'Hypothesis' comes from Greek. Its plural changes -is to -es: hypothesis → hypotheses.

## 9. “oases” (a)

'Oasis' comes from Greek. Its plural changes -is to -es: oasis → oases.

## 10. “nuclei” (b)

'Nucleus' comes from Latin. Its plural changes -us to -i: nucleus → nuclei.

## 11. “scissors” (c)

'Scissors' is always plural. We say 'a pair of scissors' for one item.

## 12. “trousers” (a)

'Trousers' is always plural. We say 'a pair of trousers' for one item.

## 13. “glasses” (b)

'Glasses' (meaning eyeglasses) is always plural. We say 'a pair of glasses' for one item.

## 14. “jeans” (d)

'Jeans' is always plural. We say 'a pair of jeans' for one item.

## 15. “news” (a)

'News' looks plural but is uncountable and takes a singular verb. We say 'the news is...' not 'the news are...'

## 16. “is” (b)

'Physics' ends in -s but is a singular noun (an academic subject). It takes the singular verb 'is'.

## 17. “is” (c)

'Economics' ends in -s but is a singular noun (an academic subject). It takes the singular verb 'is'.

**18. “are” (c)**

'Police' is always treated as a plural noun. We say 'the police are...' not 'the police is...'

**19. “shorts” (d)**

'Shorts' is always plural. We say 'a pair of shorts' for one item.

**20. “stimuli” (d)**

'Stimulus' comes from Latin. Its plural changes -us to -i: stimulus → stimuli.