Irregular Plurals

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Connections to THINKING

Read the spelling words and sentences.

1. indices	indices
2. memorandum	memorandum
3. alumni	alumni
4. phenomenon	phenomenon
5. stimulus	stimulus
6. data	data
7. analyses	analyses
8. curriculum	curriculum
9. index	index
10. criterion	criterion
11 alumna	alumna
12. criteria	criteria
13. stimuli	stimuli
14. analysis	analysis
15. datum	datum
16. memoranda	memoranda
17. curricula	curricula
18. alumnus	alumnis
19. phenomena	phenomena
20. alumnae	alumnae

We studied several types of indices. Proofread the memorandum carefully. We are all alumni of state schools. We focused on the odd phenomenon. The dog responds to a stimulus. You can present the data in chart form. The two analyses differed. We offer music in our new curriculum. Many nonfiction books have an index. Which criterion is most important? My sister is an alumna of that school. We selected her based on five criteria. Bells and lights are the usual stimuli. Here is my analysis of that movie. One wrong datum ruined the results. Save all the memoranda on that topic. The curricula at those schools differ. Dad is an alumnus of Park School. We witnessed awesome phenomena. Pam and I are alumnae of Ivy College.

Think & Sort the spelling words.

1-20. Write each pair of singular and plural nouns.

Remember

Words from foreign languages often have unusual plural spellings.





20.

Unit 9

Word Meanings

Write a spelling word to match each definition.

- 1. an item of information
- 2. a female graduate
- 3. a male graduate
- 4. in-depth studies and reports
- 5. things that cause reactions
- 6. particular courses of study, all in different, specialized fields
- 7. notes to remind
- 8. standards
- 9. more than one index
- 10. male graduates

Word Groups

Write a spelling word to complete each group.

- 11. females, graduates, reunions, _____
- **12.** message, note, reminder,
- 13. table of contents, preface, bibliography,
- **14.** marvels, occurrences, happenings, ____
- **15.** business subjects, science major, course,

Use the Thesaurus

The following synonyms for spelling words are given in the **Writing Thesaurus**. Write the spelling word to which each list of synonyms applies.

- **16.** event, happening, incident, marvel, miracle, occurrence, wonder
- 17. evidence, facts, information, statistics
- 18. model, norm, rule, standard, test, yardstick
- 19. examination, investigation
- 20. cause, impetus, motive

Word Meanings
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Word Groups
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Use the Thesaurus
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Answer the Questions 2. 3. 6. 7. 9. 10. Complete the Analogies 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. **Use Context Clues** 16. 17. 18. 19. 20.



alumna alumnae alumni	alumnus	stimulus
stimuli analyses analysis	phenomena	indices
criteria criterion index	phenomenon	datum
data curricula curriculum	memoranda	memorandum

Answer the Questions

Write the spelling word that answers each question.

- 1. What could you call in-depth discussions about news events?
- 2. Which word means "a female graduate"?
- 3. What might you call one specified fact?
- 4. What are the bells and buzzers that dog trainers use?
- 5. If you write a "memo," what are you writing?
- 6. Which word describes lists of topics found at the back of books?
- 7. On what standard might you base an important decision?
- 8. What could you call an unexpected tornado?
- **9.** What describes the process of separating a subject into parts and studying those parts?
- **10.** What term, which actually means "male graduates," is used today for both male and female graduates?

Complete the Analogies

Write the spelling word that best completes each analogy.

- 11. Cooking is to recipes as teaching is to
- 12. Alumnae is to alumna as alumni is to _____.
- 13. Building is to directory as book is to _____.
- 14. Games is to strategies as decisions is to _____.
- **15.** Note is to notes as memorandum is to _____.

Use Context Clues

Write spelling words from the box to complete the paragraph.

Maria Mitchell (1818–1899) was an American astronomer who studied sunspots, eclipses, and other solar <u>16.</u>. While gathering <u>17.</u> for a government survey, Mitchell discovered a comet. Later, as a professor at Vassar College, she developed a radically new <u>18.</u> in astronomy, which provided the <u>19.</u> for many Vassar College <u>20.</u> to pursue a career in astronomy.



Ünit 9

Proofread a Conversation

Proofread the conversation below for ten misspelled words. Then rewrite the conversation. Write the spelling words correctly and make the corrections indicated by the proofreading marks.

Mr. Gates called his staff into his office. "Did you all get the memerandum about today's meeting? Good. We are here to discuss the analasis of our recent alumnii telephone survey." Tonya, can you tell us about the criterea that were used?" Tonya began, "The first critereon was Campus appearance. One alumnas I phoned said that we should beautify the landscape as a stimulas for more people to visit. In fact, according to the dayta we gathered, many of our alumni would like more stimulii such as landscaping architectural improvements."

Pablo interjected, "You're so right! I've noticed quite a phenomenan around Sparrow Lake this year. Ever since we planted the rose garden, the number of visitors doubled!"

Proofreading Marks



/ Make Lowercase

∧ Add

Delete

Add a Period

T Indent

Narrative Writing

Write a Conversation

Write a conversation between two people talking on the telephone about a particular issue. Select or invent two characters.

- Choose the topic that they will discuss.
- Write the conversation between them.
- Use as many spelling words as you can.
- Proofread your paper for errors in spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Use a print or online dictionary to check spelling if you are not sure.

Transfer

Think of three more plural words with unusual spellings.
Write the words in your Spelling Journal.

Extende Transfer

Meaning Mastery

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Pattern Power

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Word Study

bacteria bacterium datum alumnus curricula addendum antennae alumna
alumnae
data
stimulus
curriculum
hypothesis
antenna

analysis analyses memoranda stimuli phenomena hypotheses diagnosis

parentheses parenthesis memorandum criterion phenomenon synopses diagnoses index indices alumni criteria addenda synopsis

Use words from the list above to complete these exercises.

Meaning Mastery

- 1-4. The Latin verb alere means "to nourish." A derivative, al-, means "pupil." Write the words that originate from alere.
 - 5. Write the plural form of the word that originates from the Greek word analusis, meaning "to dissolve" or "to undo."
 - **6.** Write the plural form of the word that originates from the Greek word **phainein**, meaning "to show."
- 7-8. Write the words that name punctuation marks.

Pattern Power

Write the word pairs that follow each pattern.

9-18. singular -um \rightarrow plural -a

19–20. singular **-ex** → plural **-ices**

Technology Word Hunt

Read the passage below and look for irregular plurals and their singular forms.

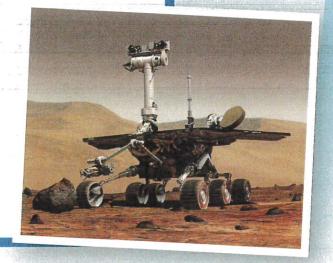
Spirit and Opportunity are robot geologists investigating Mars. The rovers landed on the red planet in January 2004. They have been slowly trekking across the planet's surface for years, sending images and data back to scientists on Earth. They are looking for evidence that supports the hypothesis that there is or has been life on Mars.

A primary task of the rovers is to collect soil and rock samples and perform a variety of analyses. They are looking for clues about the past presence of water on Mars. Earlier in the mission, scientists on Earth would tell a rover which specimens to analyze. In the winter of 2010, NASA uploaded artificial intelligence software to Opportunity. This allows Opportunity to make its own decisions. The rover's computer system recognizes rocks that meet pre-programmed criteria. For example, a rounded shape might be one criterion.

Each rover has two antennae. One antenna sends and receives information in every direction. The other can rotate to beam information in a specific direction. The ability to move only the antenna—instead of repositioning the rover—helps the rover conserve energy. The rovers are also equipped with high-resolution cameras that photograph Mars phenomena, including soil, rocks, and dust. Photos are also transmitted to Earth.

Both rovers were carefully sterilized before their launch. Scientists did not want to send earthly bacteria to the red planet. Any foreign bacterium could jeopardize the research.

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- 1-4. Find and write the singular words that have irregular plural forms.
- 5-10. Find and write the irregular plural words.