

Final -s in English Grammar **Explanation**

THE FOLLOWING TABLE EXPLAINS THE USE OF FINAL -S AND -ES.

(a) SINGULAR: one bird

(b) PLURAL: two birds, three birds, many birds, all

birds, etc

SINGULAR = one, not two or more PLURAL = two, three, or more

(c) Birds sing.

(d) A bird sings.

A plural noun ends in -s, as in (c) A singular verb ends in -s, as in (d).

(e) A bird

sings

outside my window.

sings Sally

sings

loudly. beautifully.

She

sings

songs to her children.

Steve sing**s** He

sings

very well. in a chorus. A singular verb follows a singular subject. Add -s to the simple present verb if tire subject is(1) a singular noun (e.g., a bird, Sally, Steve) or(2) he, she, or it*

SPELLING OF FINAL -S/-ES

(a) visit> visits speak> speaks (b) ride> rides write> writes	Final -s , not -es , is added to most verbs. INCORRECT: visites, speakers Many verbs end in -e . Final -s is simply added.
(c) catch> catches wash> washes miss> misses fix> fixes buzz> buzzes	Final -es is added to words that end in -ch , -sh , -s , -x and -z . PRONUNCIATION NOTE: Final -es is pronounced /əz/ and adds a syllable.
(d) fly> flies (e) pay> pays	If a word ends in a consonant + - y , change the - y to - i and add - es . (INCORRECT: flys) If a word ends in a vowel + - y , simply add - s .* (INCORRECT: paies or payes)
(f) go> goes goʊz/ do> does /dəz/ have> has /hæz/	The singular forms of the verbs go, do, and have are irregular.

^{*}VOWELS = A, E, I, O, U. CONSONANTS = ALL OTHER LETTEN IN THE ALPHABET.