

# Adding '-s' and '-es'

Parents: In year 1, children start to learn more about the different ways of spelling familiar letter sounds that they learned during their Reception year. They also learn how to modify verbs, nouns and adjectives, for example to change tense or make plurals. In addition, they learn more 'common exception words' (words that don't follow the usual rules but are used regularly). Teachers often find that getting children to learn spellings is one thing, but then getting them to use them in their everyday writing is another. One of the methods which works well is 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' – as the title suggests, children are encouraged to look at the word, say it out loud, cover it up, have a go at writing it and then check if it is correct. Having two or three tries means they can correct any errors. Here, we look at adding '-s' or '-es' to make plurals of nouns or third person singular of verbs. Most words don't change when we add '-s' (for example walk - walks, cat - cats), but if a word ends with a hissing or buzzing sound, and adding '-s' creates another syllable, then the /s/ sound is spelled 'es' (for example watch - watches, fizz - fizzes).

## Challenge Answers

Fill in the missing words in these sentences by adding '-s' or '-es':

The teacher asked David to give out the **books**.

When a cat is angry, it **hisses** at you.

My brother **watches** football every week.

Our dog **likes** to go for a walk.

The genie granted Aladdin three **wishes**.

We saw three **foxes** playing in the woods.