

Masculine	Feminine	Gender neutral
boy	girl	child
uncle	aunt	
husband	wife	spouse
actor	actress	
prince	princess	
waiter	waitress	server
rooster	hen	chicken
stallion	mare	horse

Singular	Plural
thesis	theses
crisis	crises
phenomenon	phenomena
criterion	criteria
datum	data

Some nouns have the same form in the singular and the plural.

EXAMPLES

Singular	Plural
sheep	sheep
fish	fish

Plural nouns used with a singular verb	Sentence
billiards	Billiards is played all over the world.

Some nouns have a fixed plural form and take a plural verb. They are not used in the singular, or they have a different meaning in the singular. Nouns like this include: *trousers, jeans, glasses, savings, thanks, steps, stairs, customs, congratulations, tropics, wages, spectacles, outskirts, goods, wits*

Plural noun with plural verb	Sentence
trousers	My trousers are too tight.
jeans	Her jeans are black.
glasses	Those glasses are his.

- Keith is looking for **somewhere** to live.
- There is **nowhere** as beautiful as Paris.

Any and the indefinite pronouns formed with it can also be used in affirmative sentences with a meaning that is close to *every*: whichever person, whichever place, whichever thing, etc.

EXAMPLES

- They can choose **anything** from the menu.
- You may invite **anybody** you want to your birthday party.
- We can go **anywhere** you'd like this summer.
- He would give **anything** to get into Oxford.
- I don't really know you **anywhere**.

NEGATIVE SENTENCES

Negative sentences can only be formed with the indefinite pronouns that include *any*.

EXAMPLES

- I don't have **anything** to eat.
- She didn't go **anywhere** last week.
- I can't find **anyone** to come with me.

Many negative sentences that include an indefinite pronoun with *any* can be turned into affirmative sentences with a negative meaning by using an indefinite pronoun with *no*. However, there is a change in meaning with this transformation: the sentence that includes an indefinite pronoun with *no* is stronger, and can imply emotional content such as defensiveness, hopelessness, anger, etc.

EXAMPLES

- I don't know **anything** about it. = neutral
- I know **nothing** about it. = defensive

NATIONALITIES

Forming nationality adjectives and nouns from country names is not always simple in English. Use the nationality adjective ending in *-ese* or *-ish* with a plural verb, to refer to all people of that nationality. The adjective listed also often refers to the language spoken in the country, although this is not always the case.

EXAMPLES

- **Country:** I live in Japan.
- **Adjective:** I like Japanese food.
- **Origin:** She is a Japanese person. She is from Japan. = She is Japanese.
- **Language:** She speaks Japanese.
- **Describing a group:** Spaniards often drink wine. = Spanish people often drink wine.
- **Describing a group:** The Chinese enjoy fireworks. = Chinese people enjoy fireworks.

In some cases, a nationality or regional noun may be negatively correlated for some people, for historic or political reasons. When this is the case, many people will not use it, but will instead use a more neutral adjective + "people" formulation or "people from" + country name. This is the case for the examples with an asterisk below. Alternative formulations, less likely to give offense, are given in parentheses.

Geographic Region/Continent	Adjective	Noun
Africa	African	an African* (an African person, someone from Africa)
Asia	Asian	an Asian* (an Asian person, someone from Asia)
Europe	European	a European

Country or region	Adjective	Noun
Syria	Syrian	a Syrian
Thailand	Thai	a Thai person
Tunisia	Tunisian	a Tunisian
Turkey	Turkish	a Turk
Turkmenistan	Turkmen	a Turkmen / the Turkmen
Ukraine	Ukrainian	a Ukrainian
The United Arab Emirates	Emirati	an Emirati
The United States	American	an American
Uruguay	Uruguayan	a Uruguayan
Vietnam	Vietnamese	a Vietnamese person

Country or region	Adjective	Noun
Wales	Welsh	a Welshman/Welshwoman
Zambia	Zambian	a Zambian
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwean	a Zimbabwean

Cities also can be transformed into adjectives and nouns, although they are highly irregular and the nominal form is not always agreed upon (there may be several). Some examples of transformed city names are below.

City	Adjective	Noun
Paris	Parisian	a Parisian
New York	New York	a New Yorker
Sydney	Sydney	a Sydney-sider
London	London	a Londoner
São Paulo	São Paulo	a Paulistano

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