



**Learn English Through Stories**

**A Series**

**A62**

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# 1. Leena's Lesson on Singular and Plural Nouns

Kulwant Sandhu

Leena, an 11-year-old girl with a curious mind, lived in a small, clean house near a canal in the big village of Rurka Kalan, near Goraya, India. Her mother, Sarbjeet, worked at a restaurant, earning 300 rupees a day, while her father, Lakha, worked night shifts at a factory, earning 500 rupees a night. Leena was in the 6th class at a local school and loved learning English. Her kind neighbour, Mr. Sandhu, gave free tuition to students whose parents could not afford private lessons. This week, Leena was excited to learn about singular and plural nouns with Mr. Sandhu.

The Lesson Begins

Leena sat at a small table in Mr. Sandhu's room, her notebook open. Mr. Sandhu smiled and said, "Leena, today we'll learn about singular and plural nouns. A singular noun names one thing, like boy. A plural noun names more than one, like boys. Understand?"

"Yes, Mr. Sandhu," Leena said. "So, boy is singular, and boys is plural?"

"Exactly!" Mr. Sandhu said. "Let's try another. What's the plural of lad?"

Leena thought. "One lad, many lads."

"Good!" Mr. Sandhu said. "Now, what's the plural of arm?"

"One arm, two arms," Leena answered.

"Perfect!" Mr. Sandhu said. "Let's check. Is arms singular or plural?"

"Plural," Leena said with a smile.

Regular Plurals

Mr. Sandhu held up a map. "This is a map. What's the plural?"

"Maps," Leena said.

"Great!" Mr. Sandhu said. "What about bus? I saw one outside."

Leena nodded. "One bus, many buses."

"Correct!" Mr. Sandhu said. "And what's the plural of class?"

"Classes," Leena replied, thinking of her school.

"Well done!" Mr. Sandhu said. "Let's try another. The restaurant uses gas. What's the plural?"

Leena paused. "Gas stays the same, right?"

“No,” Mr. Sandhu said gently. “For this, we say gases. Let’s check. Is gases singular or plural?”

“Plural,” Leena said.

Nouns Ending in -s, -sh, -ch, -x, -z

“Now,” Mr. Sandhu said, “some nouns change differently. Take wish. What’s the plural?”

Leena thought. “Wishes.”

“Excellent!” Mr. Sandhu said. “What about fox?”

“Foxes,” Leena answered.

“Good! And glass?” Mr. Sandhu asked, pointing to a cup.

“Glasses,” Leena said.

“Very good!” Mr. Sandhu said. “Let’s check. Is wishes singular or plural?”

“Plural,” Leena replied.

Nouns Ending in -f or -fe

Mr. Sandhu drew a picture of a calf. “What’s the plural of calf?”

Leena hesitated. “Calves?”

“Yes!” Mr. Sandhu said. “Some nouns ending in -f or -fe change to -ves. What’s the plural of half?”

“Halves,” Leena said.

“And thief?” Mr. Sandhu asked.

“Thieves,” Leena answered.

“But not all!” Mr. Sandhu said. “What’s the plural of roof?”

Leena thought. “Roofs.”

“Correct!” Mr. Sandhu said. “And chief?”

“Chiefs,” Leena said.

“Let’s check,” Mr. Sandhu said. “Is thieves singular or plural?”

“Plural,” Leena said confidently.

Nouns Ending in -y

Mr. Sandhu pointed to a picture of a lady. “What’s the plural of lady?”

Leena smiled. “Ladies.”

“Good!” Mr. Sandhu said. “And city?”

“Cities,” Leena answered.

“What about copy?” Mr. Sandhu asked, showing her a book.

“Copies,” Leena said.

“Excellent!” Mr. Sandhu said. “Let’s check. Is cities singular or plural?”

“Plural,” Leena replied.

Nouns Ending in -o

“Now,” Mr. Sandhu said, “some nouns ending in -o add -es. What’s the plural of potato?”

“Potatoes,” Leena said, thinking of her mother’s cooking.

“Yes!” Mr. Sandhu said. “And hero?”

“Heroes,” Leena answered.

“But some just add -s,” Mr. Sandhu said. “What’s the plural of mango?”

“Mangos,” Leena said.

“Or mangoes—both are okay!” Mr. Sandhu said. “What about radio?”

“Radios,” Leena replied.

“Good!” Mr. Sandhu said. “Let’s check. Is potatoes singular or plural?”

“Plural,” Leena said.

Irregular Plurals

“Now, some nouns are irregular,” Mr. Sandhu said. “What’s the plural of child?”

Leena thought. “Children.”

“Great!” Mr. Sandhu said. “And foot?”

“Feet,” Leena answered.

“What about mouse?” Mr. Sandhu asked.

“Mice,” Leena said.

“Perfect!” Mr. Sandhu said. “And cuckoo?”

“Cuckoos,” Leena replied.

“Let’s check,” Mr. Sandhu said. “Is children singular or plural?”

“Plural,” Leena said.

Nouns That Stay the Same

Mr. Sandhu smiled. "Some nouns don't change. What's the plural of deer?"

"Deer," Leena said.

"And fish?" Mr. Sandhu asked.

"Fish," Leena answered.

"Correct!" Mr. Sandhu said. "Let's check. Is fish singular or plural when we say 'two fish'?"

"Plural," Leena said.

A Final Test

Mr. Sandhu decided to test Leena. "Let's play a game. I say a noun, you tell me if it's singular or plural. Ready?"

"Yes!" Leena said, feeling excitement.

"Army," Mr. Sandhu said.

"Singular," Leena answered.

"Armies," he said.

"Plural," Leena replied.

"Family," Mr. Sandhu said.

"Singular," Leena said, thinking of her family.

"Key," Mr. Sandhu said.

"Singular," Leena answered.

"Keys," he said.

"Plural," Leena replied.

"Donkey," Mr. Sandhu said.

"Singular," Leena said.

"Donkeys," he said.

"Plural," Leena answered.

"Essay," Mr. Sandhu said.

"Singular," Leena said.

"Essays," he said.

"Plural," Leena replied.

"Act," Mr. Sandhu said.

“Singular,” Leena answered.

“Perfect!” Mr. Sandhu said. “You got them all right!”

Back at Home

Leena went home, feeling joy. She told her mother, Sarbjeet, about her lesson. Sarbjeet was cooking with potatoes. “You’re so smart,” she said. Leena’s father, Lakha, came home from the factory. “I’m proud of you,” he said, giving her a hug. Leena felt love for her family.

Before bed, Leena looked at her notebook. She had revised and learned so many nouns:

**Singular:** act, lad, arm, boy, map, engine, bus, gas, glass, class, wish, fox, calf, self, half, thief, roof, chief, army, family, body, lady, copy, city, donkey, essay, key, potato, hero, mango, bamboo, radio, circle, child, foot, mouse, deer, fish

**Plural:** acts, lads, arms, boys, maps, engines, buses, gases, glasses, classes, wishes, foxes, calves, selves, halves, thieves, roofs, chiefs, armies, families, bodies, ladies, copies, cities, donkeys, essays, keys, potatoes, heroes, mangos/mangoes, bamboos, radios, cuckoos, children, feet, mice, deer, fish

Leena smiled. With Mr. Sandhu’s help, she understood singular and plural nouns. As she looked at the canal sparkling like silver, she felt hope for her next lesson.

## **2. Comprehension Questions and Answers**

Question 1: Where does Leena live?

Question 2: Who teaches Leena about singular and plural nouns?

Question 3: What is the difference between a singular noun and a plural noun?

Question 4: What is the plural of map?

Question 5: What is the plural of calf?

Question 6: What is the plural of lady?

Question 7: What is the plural of potato?

Question 8: What is the plural of child?

Question 9: Which noun in the story stays the same in singular and plural form?

Question 10: How does Leena feel at the end of her lesson with Mr. Sandhu?

### **Answers**

Answer 1: Leena lives in a small, clean house in Rurka Kalan near Goraya.

Answer 2: Mr. Sandhu teaches Leena about singular and plural nouns.

Answer 3: A singular noun names one thing, like boy, and a plural noun names more than one, like boys.

Answer 4: The plural of map is maps.

Answer 5: The plural of calf is calves.

Answer 6: The plural of lady is ladies.

Answer 7: The plural of potato is potatoes.

Answer 8: The plural of child is children.

Answer 9: The noun deer stays the same in singular and plural form.

Answer 10: Leena feels joy and hope at the end of her lesson.

### 3. Picture Dictionary

**sailing** नाव को चलाना  
(सेलिंग)



**shaving**  
(शेविंग)

उस्तरे से या रेजर से दाढ़ी बनाना



**sawing** (साइंग)

आरो से लकड़ी काटना



**scrubbing**  
(स्क्राबिंग)

रगड़ना या  
भाँजना



**shivering** (शिबरिंग) सर्दी से काँपने की क्रिया



**sewing**  
(सोइंग)

सिलाई करना



**shooting**  
(शूटिंग)

गोली चलाना  
या निशाना  
लगाना

