

THE NOUN PARADIGM /PART 2

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C- some other nouns are always singular although they end in (s). For example, (economics, linguistics, mathematics, politics, billiards, darts,...)

□ They take (it) as a pronoun substitute and they go with the singular form of the verb.

Politics **is** a dirty game. **It** is the game of power.

□ They occupy one position in the paradigm which is the stem.

The stem	Plural form	Singular possessive	Plural possessive
mathematics	-----	-----	-----

D- few other nouns end in (s) may be either singular or plural according to their meaning in context. These words include, measles, ethics, oats, suds

Measles → sg. (disease)
→ pl. red spots

Ethics → sg. (discipline)
→ Pl. (beliefs and actions)

Oats → sg. (the plant or the grass)
→ Pl. (the seeds or the grains of oats)

Suds → sg. (the lather)
→ Pl. (soap bubbles)

- According to their meaning in context, they might take singular or plural pronouns and they go with singular or plural verbs:

The ethics of journalism **are** much debated. (ethics (pl.)= actions and beliefs)
Ethics **deals** with moral conduct. (ethics (sg.)= a discipline)

- These nouns can occupy two positions in the noun paradigm:

The stem	Plural form	Singular possessive	Plural possessive
oats	oats	-----	-----