

Nouns of Latin and Greek origin

Singular		Plural	
-is /is/	analysis	-es /i:z/	analyses
	axis		axes
	basis		bases
	crisis		crises
	hypothesis		hypotheses
	matrix		matrices/matrixes
	thesis		theses
-um	spectrum	-a	spectra
	maximum	-a	maxima/maximums
	minimum	-a	minima/minimums
-us	focus	-i /ai/	foci/focuses
	nucleus		nuclei
	radius		radii
-a	formula	-ae /i:/	formulae/formulas
-on	automaton	-a	automata/automatons
	criterion		criteria
	phenomenon		phenomena
-ix	appendix	-ces /si:z/	appendices
-ex	index	-ces /si:z/	indices, indexes
	vertex		vertices/vertexes

Notes:

- Distinguish between:

axis (e.g. axis Y, axis X) = osa	axes /i:z/
axe (a tool for cutting wood) = sekera	axes /iz/
basis (facts, principles from which something is formed or developed) = základ	bases /i:z/
base (e.g. the base of a triangle, a military base) = základna	bases /iz/

- The following nouns have **two plural forms with the same meaning**:

automaton, focus, formula, matrix, maximum, minimum.

The original plural is regarded as more formal.

- “Index” has **two plural forms, each with a different meaning**:

index (an index at the back of a book)	indexes
index (a term in mathematics)	indices /si:z/

Common mistakes:

- Wrong pronunciation of plural forms in –es (see above).

- *Criteria*, *phenomenons* instead of *criteria*, *phenomena*.

EXERCISES

I. Fill the gaps with the nouns (singular or plural) from the table above.

1. The country now faces an economic
2. The two most frequently quoted about climate change are rather strange.
3. When you go for a job interview, it's important to find out what the interviewers' are.
4. Magnetism and gravity are natural
5. There is a special for converting kilometres into miles.
6. The of recent research has been on environmental issues.
7. The fundamental particles, protons and neutrons make and the join in atoms.
8. In order to calculate the area of these two circles, you must know their
9. Both our and their of data on hourly energy consumption have shown that the peak is at 8.00 p.m.
10. Plot distance on the vertical Y against time on the X
11. The SWOT is a useful technique in strategic planning.
12. Academic ability is the main for admission to university.
13. are electronically operated mechanical devices that function automatically, without continuous input from an operator.

II. Correct the mistakes in the plural forms.

1. To qualify for a grant, students must satisfy certain criterions.
2. If the two analysis are correct, the company's economic difficulties are caused by a lack of investment.
3. The two axis are often referred to as the X axis and the Y axis.
4. Political crisis of this kind are nothing unusual in that country.
5. The two main thesis of that paper stress the need for a change in the energy policy.
6. A thorough understanding of mathematics is sufficient to explain a wide range of natural phenomenons.

III. Translate

1. Naše žádost o grant nesplnila dvě z kritérií stanovených Ministerstvem školství, tak jsme nedostali žádné peníze.
.....
2. Jazyk je sociální a kulturní jev.
.....
3. Budoucnost jaderné energie byla středem zájmu na té konferenci.
.....
4. Matice se běžně používají při řešení matematických problémů.
.....
5. Pro toto vysvětlení neexistuje žádný vědecký základ.
.....
6. Napsal doktorskou práci o nových keramických materiálech.
.....

