

DIFFERENTIATED NOUNS

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Differentiated nouns are nouns where ending **-s** (in plural number) changes the semantic meaning of a word.



On the surface of semantic relations, the meaning of the singular will be understood as simply "one", as opposed to the meaning of the plural as "many" in the sense of "more than one".

This is apparently obvious for such correlations as **book — books**, **lake — lakes** and the like.



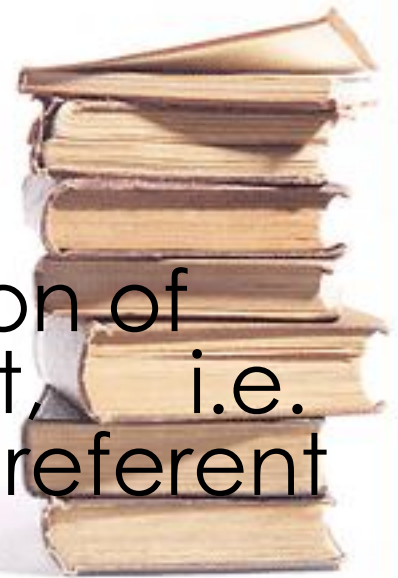
However, alongside of these semantically unequivocal correlations, there exist plurals and singulars that **cannot** be fully accounted for by the above ready-made approach.



This becomes clear when we take for comparison such forms as **potato** (*one item of the vegetables*) and **potatoes** (*food*), **paper** (*material*) and **papers** (*notes or documents*), **sky** (*the vault of heaven*) and **skies** (*the same sky taken as a direct or figurative background*), etc.



As a result of the comparison we conclude that the broader sememic mark of the **plural**, or "plurality" in the grammatical sense, should be described as the potentially dismembering reflection of the structure of the referent, while the sememic mark of the **singular** will be understood as the non-dismembering reflection of the structure of the referent, i.e. the presentation of the referent in its indivisible entirety.



On the other hand, there are semantic varieties of the plural forms that differ from one another in their plural quality as such. The extreme point of this semantic scale is marked by the lexicalisation of the plural form, i.e. by its serving as a means of rendering not specificational, but purely notional difference in meaning.

Cf. **colours** as a "flag",
as "wooing",

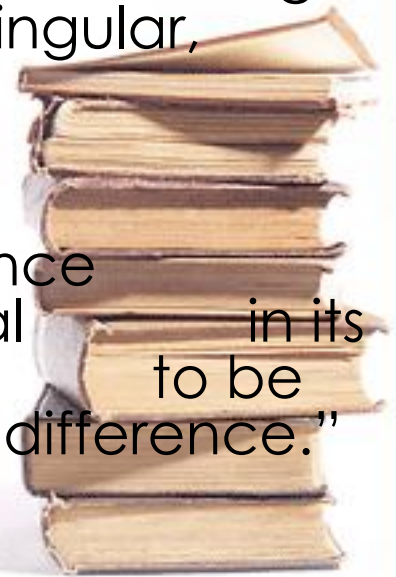
attentions
pains as "effort",
quarters as "abode", etc.



Ilyish says that “the difference between the two numbers may increase to such a degree that the plural form develops **a completely new meaning** which the singular has not got at all. Thus, for example, the plural form *colours* has the meaning 'banner' which is restricted to the plural (e. g. *to serve under the colours of liberty*). In a similar manner, the plural *attentions* has acquired the meaning 'wooing' (*pay attentions to a young lady*).

Since, in these cases, a difference in lexical meaning develops between the plural and the singular, it is natural to say that the plural form has been lexicalised.

What is essential from the grammatical viewpoint is the very fact that a difference in meaning which is purely grammatical in its origins is apt under certain conditions to be overshadowed by a lexical difference.”



Some examples of differentiated nouns



Address

обращение; речь;
официальное выступление

Addresses

(уст.) ухаживание



Arm
рука



Arms
вооружение
военная служба
война



Board

ДОСКА



Boards

ПОДМОСТКИ, СЦЕНА;

сценическая
профессия



Bone

КОСТЬ (часть скелета позвоночных)

Bones

СКЕЛЕТ; КОСТЯК;
ЧЕЛОВЕК; ТЕЛО
ОСТАНКИ, МОЩИ



Element

ХИМ. ЭЛЕМЕНТ

ЭЛЕМЕНТ, СОСТАВНАЯ ЧАСТЬ

Elements

ОСНОВЫ, АЗЫ

НЕПОГОДА (ветер, дождь)



Fundamental

ОСНОВНОЕ правило;
принцип

Fundamentals

ОСНОВЫ



Gut

кишка; (разг.) брюхо

Guts

(разг.) внутреннее
содержание

(разг.) мужество,
характер, сила воли



Head

ГОЛОВА



Heads

руда

лицевая сторона

монеты (с изображением
головы), орёл



Heart

сердце, душа



Hearts

черви (масть)



ill

вред, зло

ills

неприятности,
проблемы



iron

ЖЕЛЕЗО

irons

КАНДАЛЫ, ОКОВЫ



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Kennel

собачья конура
свора собак

Kennels

псарня;
собачий питомник



Land

земля, суша

почва

страна; государство



Lands

поместья



Legality

законность; легальность
следование закону

Legalities

обязательства,
налагаемые законом



Letter

буква

письмо



Letters

литература



Liberty

СВОБОДА

Liberties

(юр.) ВОЛЬНОСТИ,
привилегии



Light

СВЕТ; ОСВЕЩЕНИЕ



Lights

мнение, оценка;
система принципов



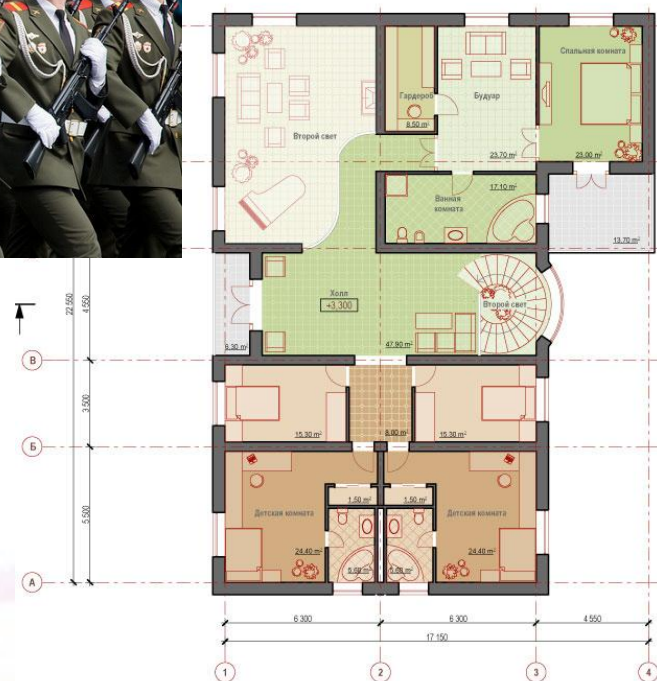
Line

линия, черта, штрих
строка
контур
экватор



Lines

план, чертеж
строй (солдат)
стихи, поэзия



Manner

манера, поведение

Manners

воспитанность,
умение себя вести



Occasion

случай, событие

Occasions

(уст.) дела



Point

ТОЧКА, ПУНКТ
ВОПРОС

Points

ДОСТОИНСТВА,
ПРЕИМУЩЕСТВА
ПУАНТЫ



Correspondencia to predicate

Both singular and plural

- They looked at me like I **was nuts**.
- The bizarre rantings in the notes left behind by the serial killer convinced the police that these guys **were nuts**.

