

Appendix IV

Guidelines for forming plurals in words from classical languages

- Most words ending in *-a* change to *-ae*. Here are a few examples: *alga/algae*, *ampulla/ampullae*, *fenestra/fenestrae*, *lamina/laminae*, *sequela/sequelae*, *vertebra/vertebrae*, etc. Importantly, this includes many families and genera in taxonomic classification and plurals used to refer to their members collectively: *Candida/Candidae*, *Drosophila/Drosophilae*, etc.

Be careful with words that end in *-ma*: they change to *-mas* or *-mata*. Here are a few examples: *adenoma/adenomas**, *carcinoma/carcinomas**, *chiasma/chiasmata*, *stigma/stigmas* or *stigmata***, *stoma/stomata*, etc.

* It is possible but very uncommon to make the plurals of tumor names by adding *-ata* instead of *-s*.

** We usually use *stigmata* in biology and medicine, and we use *stigmas* in everyday language to refer to being marked by social disgrace.

- Most words ending in *-us* change to *-i*. Here are a few examples: *alveolus/alveoli*, *bronchus/bronchi*, *coccus/cocci*, *embolus/emboli*, *fungus/fungi*, etc.

However, not all words ending in *-us* change to *-i*. Some words remain the same in the plural (e.g., *ductus/ductus*, *meatus/meatus*, *nexus/nexus*, *plexus/plexus*, etc.) and some changed to *-era* or *-ora* (*corpus/corpora*, *genus/genera*, *glomus/glomera*, *opus/opera*, *viscus/viscera*).

- Many words ending in *-is* change to *-es*. Here are a few examples: *anastomosis/anastomoses*, *axis/axes*, *crisis/crises*, *diaphysis/diaphyses*, *metastasis/metastases*, etc.

However, some words ending in *-is* change to *-des* (e.g., *arthritis/arthritis*, *dermatitis/dermatitides*, *glottis/glottides*, *iris/irides*, *neuritis/neuritides*, etc.).

- Words ending in *-um* change to *-a*. Here are a few examples: *acetabulum/acetabula*, *atrium/atria*, *diverticulum/diverticula*, *hilum/hila*, *infundibulum/infundibula*, *septum/septa*, etc.

- Most words ending in *-x* change to *-ces*. Here are a few examples: *appendix/appendices*, *apex/apices*, *calyx/calycies*, *cervix/cervices*, *fornix/fornices*, *matrix/matrices*, *thorax/thoraces*, *varix/varices*, etc.

However, in words ending in *-cyx* or *-nx*, the plural is formed with *-ges* (e.g., *coccyx/coccyges*, *larynx/larynges*, *menix/meninges*, *nasopharynx/nasopharynges*, *salpinx/salpinges*, etc.).

- Many words ending in *-ion* change to *-a*. Here are a few examples: *criterion/criteria*, *ganglion/ganglia*, *mitochondrion/mitochondria*, *phenomenon/phenomena*, *polyhedron/polyhedra*, etc.