

Words Are CAtegorical®



Feet and Puppies, Thieves and Guppies



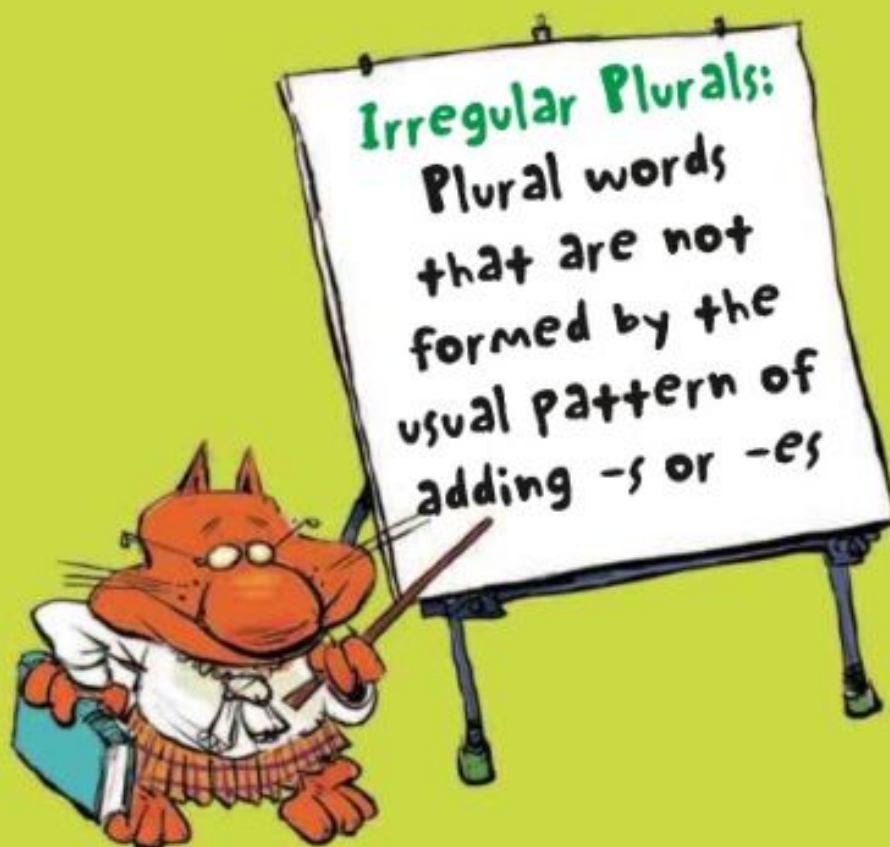
What Are Irregular Plurals?

by Brian P. Cleary

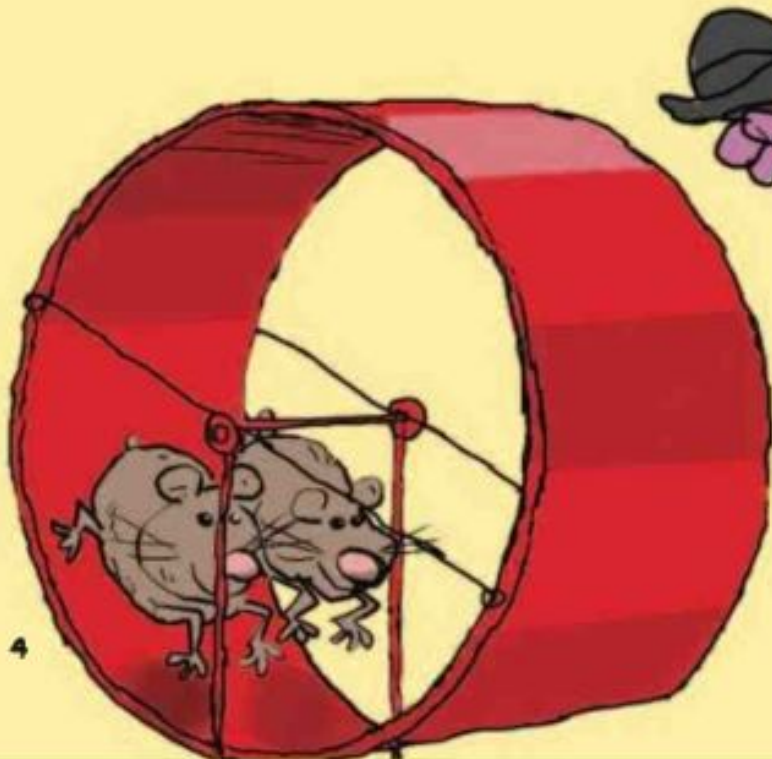
illustrated by Brian Gable



For my parents
—B.P.C.



Cats and hats and acrobats,
hamsters, squares, and squirrels—



SQUARE DANCE
TONIGHT



because they all name
more than one,
these words are known as plurals.

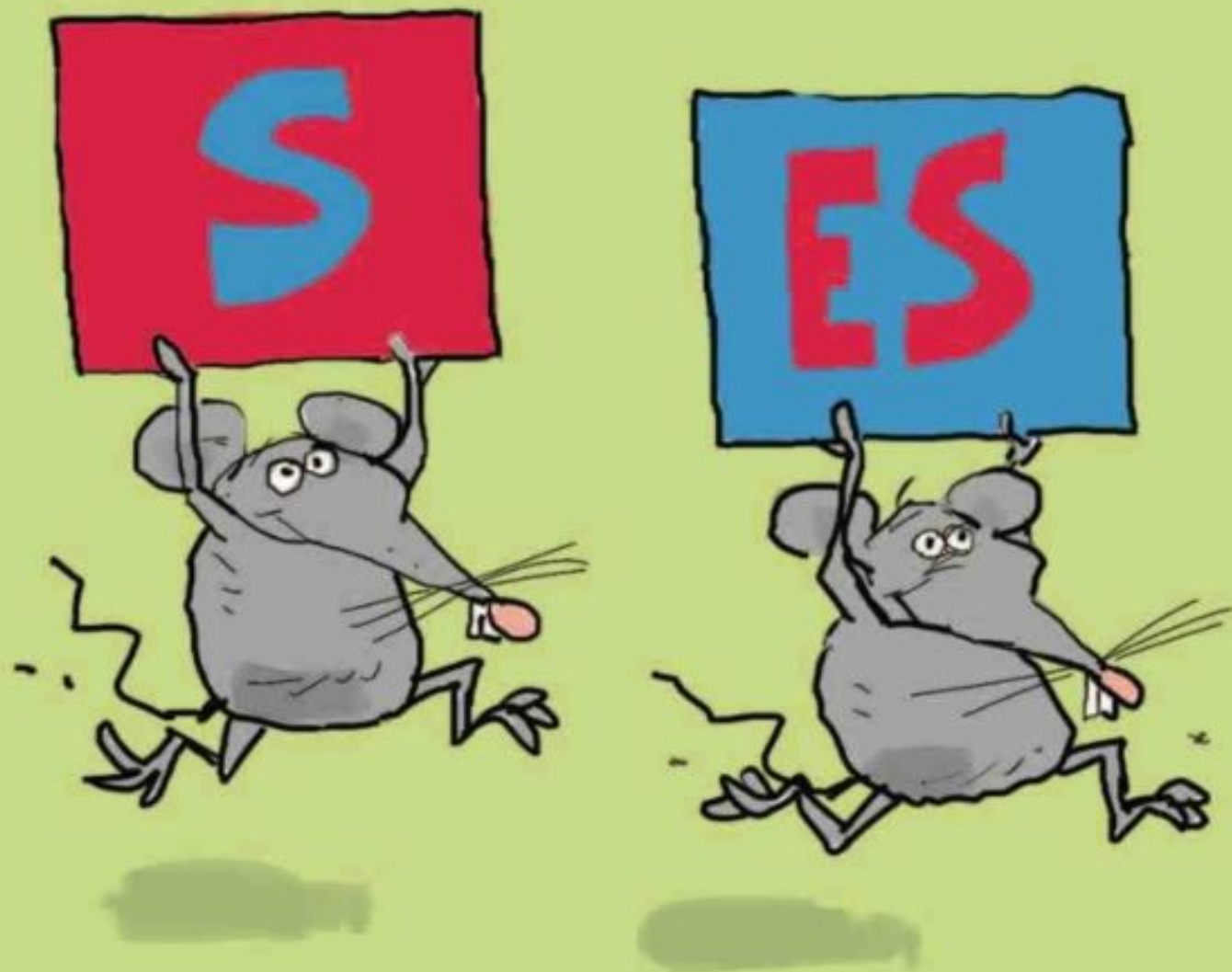
Plural means there's two or more
of something, like these dresses.



Shoes and shades and lemonades—
See how they end in S's?



Adding *s* or *e-s* to most nouns
will make them plural.



But you won't find two "foots"
on any yardstick.

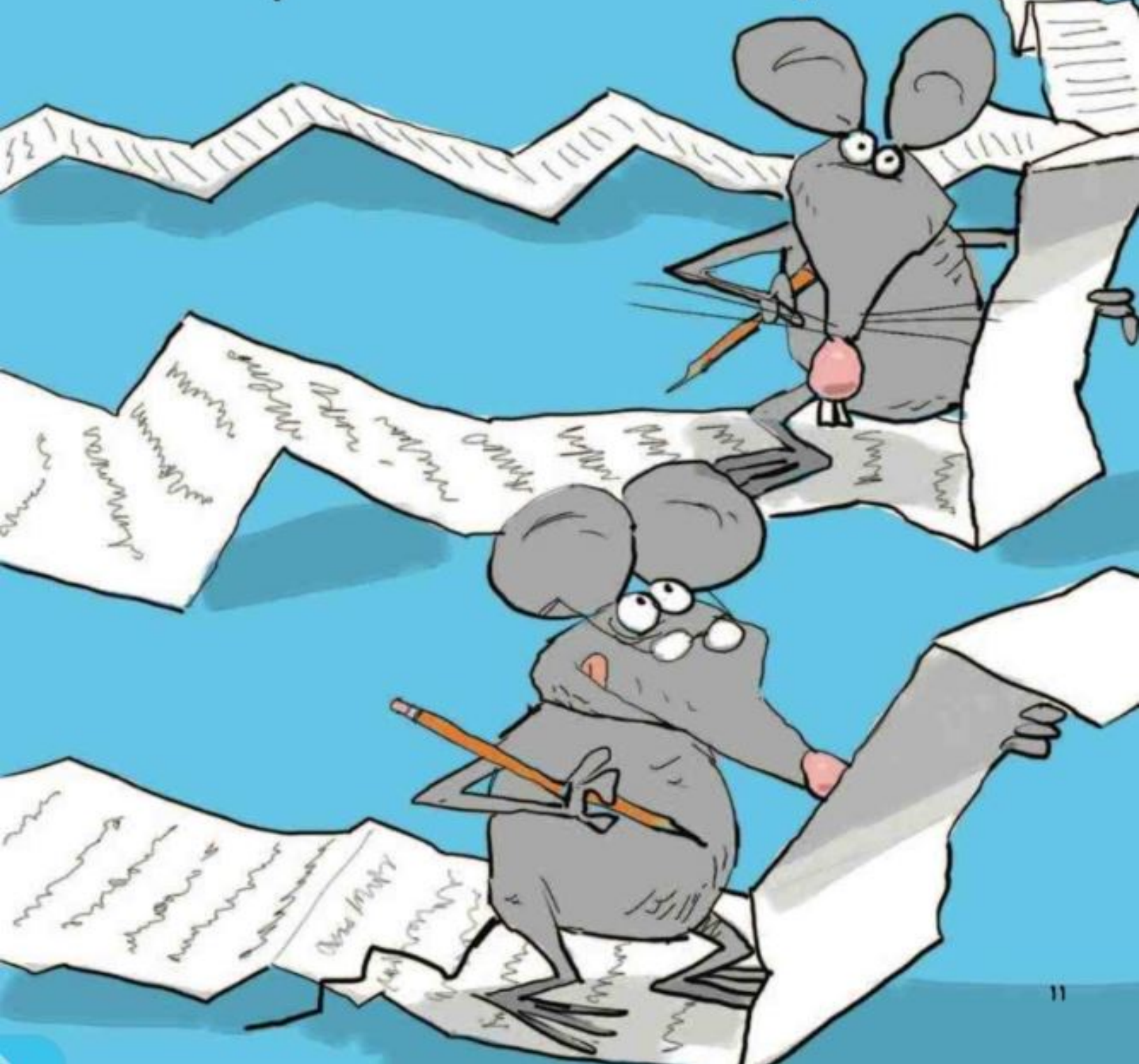
boy,
or girl!



You see, "foot" is irregular.
The plural form is "feet."



And there are bunches more
you'll know
before this book's complete.



Many words that end in *y*
will end in *i-e-s*



When naming more than one,
as in,
"My **buddies** made a mess."



The singular is "buddy," and
the plural form is "**buddies**."



This rule applies to lots of words,
like **candies**, **babies**, **studies**,

guppies, **puppies**, **parties**, **pennies**,

jellies, **bellies**, **berries**,



mommies, **daddies**,
flies, and **paddies**,
ponies, **skies**, and **cherries**.

If an *f*-e ends your word,
then swap *f* for a *v*



in plural forms.



Take **wives**
and **knives**
and **lives**,



to name just three.

often, when *f* ends the word,
the plural makes this change:



the f turns into V-e-s,
as in, "These **loaves** are strange."

LEAF → LEAVES LOAF → LOAVES
CALF → CALVES

HALF → HALVES

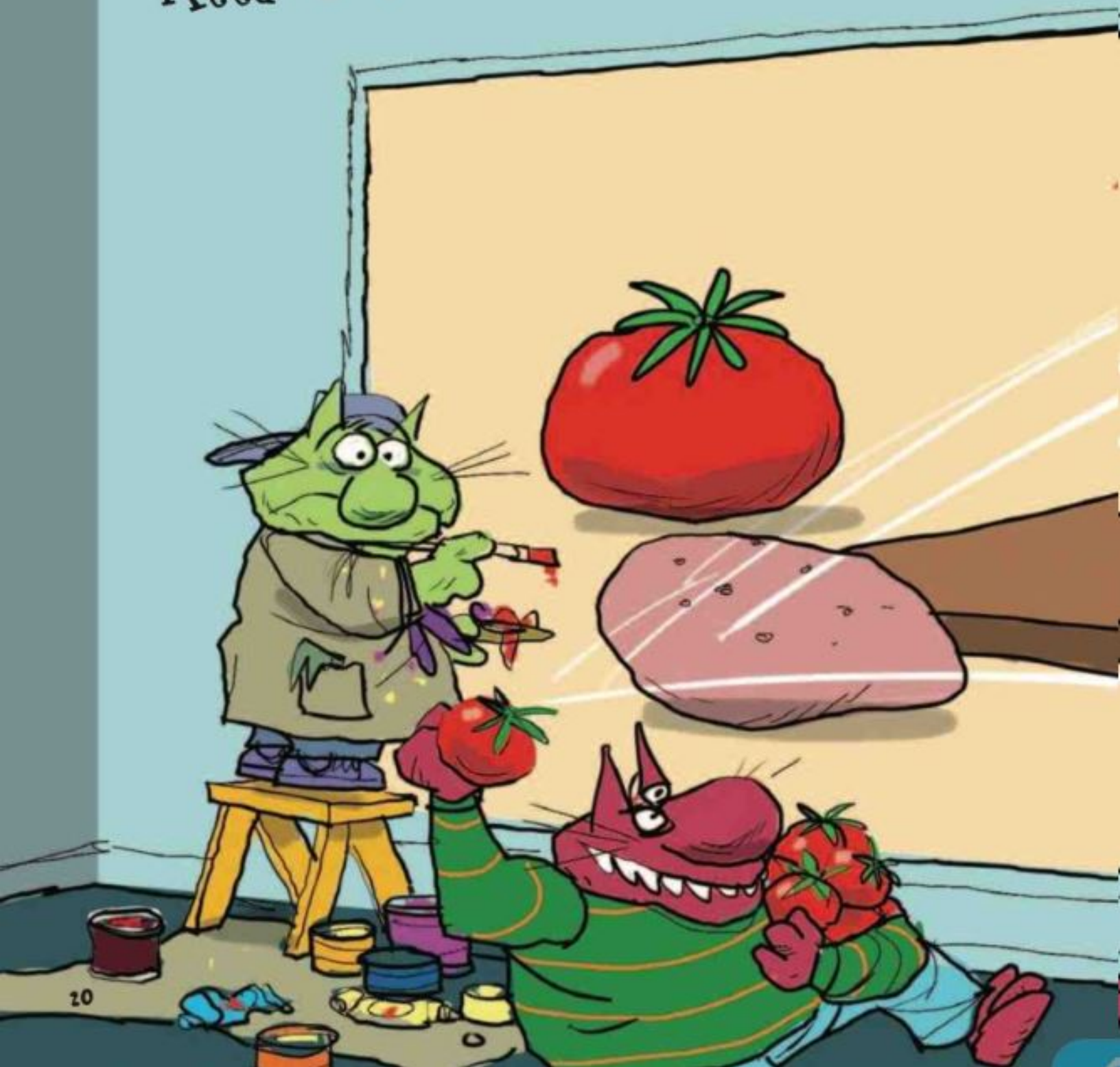
WOLF → WOLVES

THIEF → THIEVES

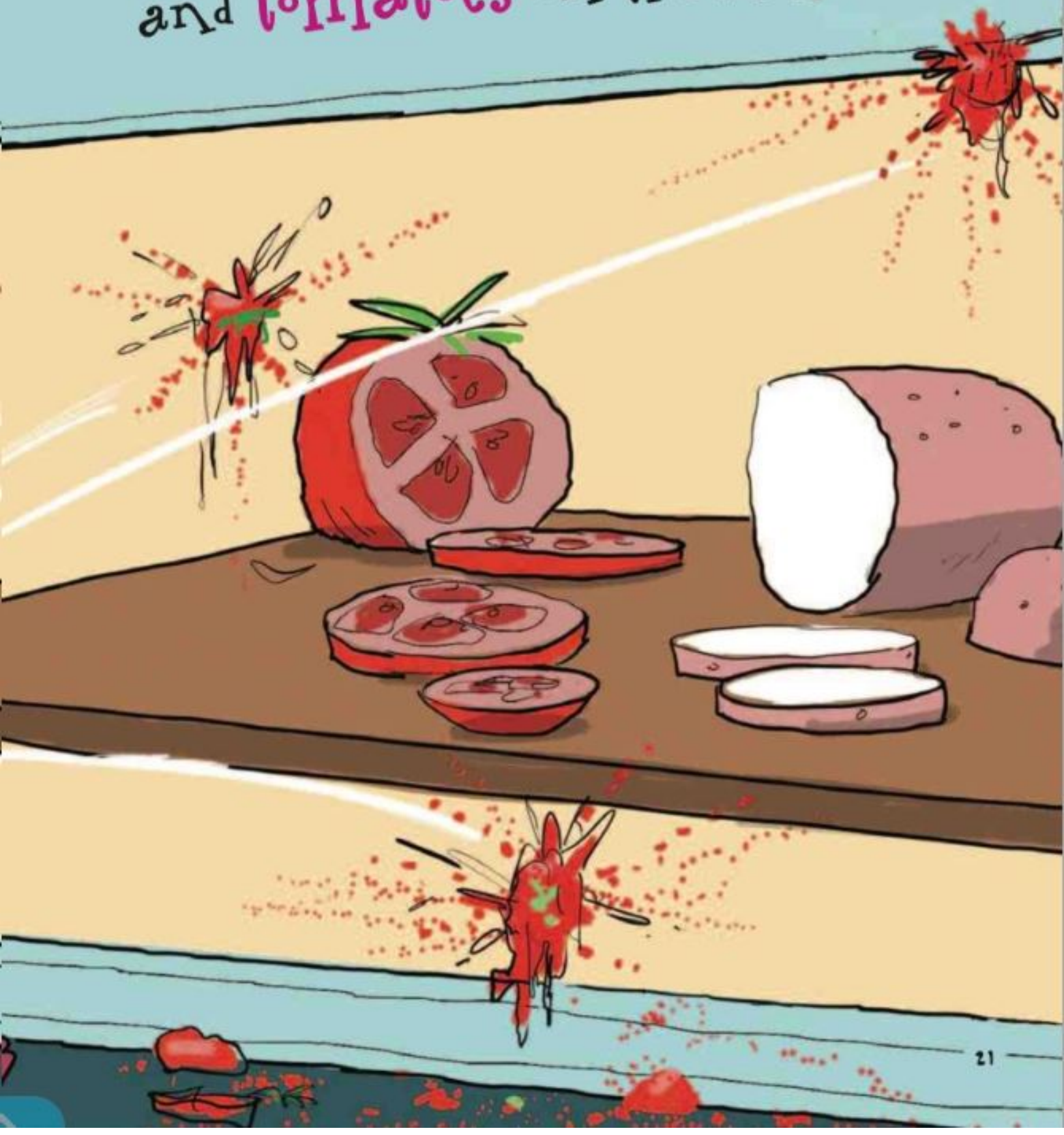
SELF → SELVES



Some words, when they end in o,
need e-s when they're plural,

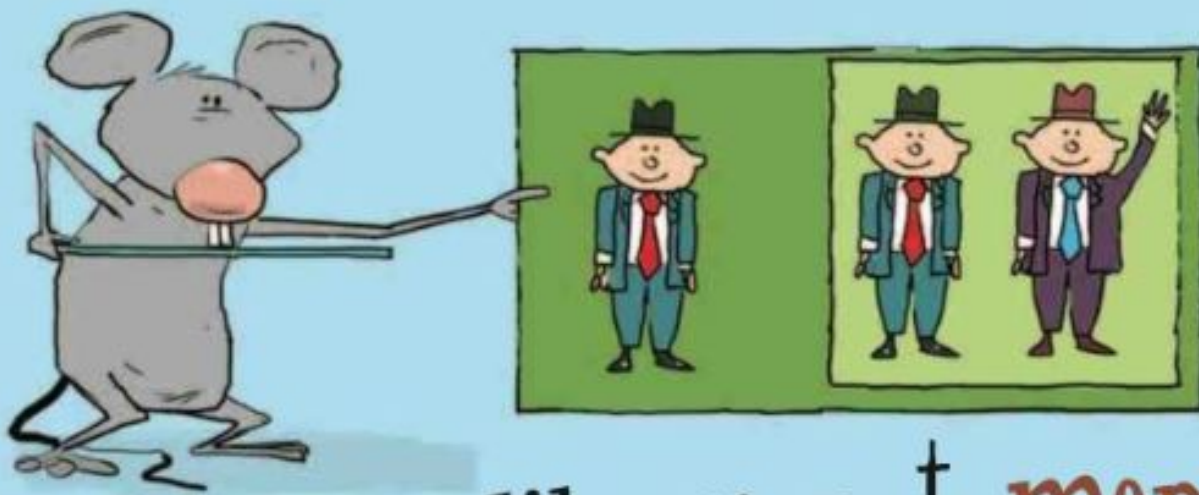


as in, "I see **potatoes**
and **tomatoes** on that mural."

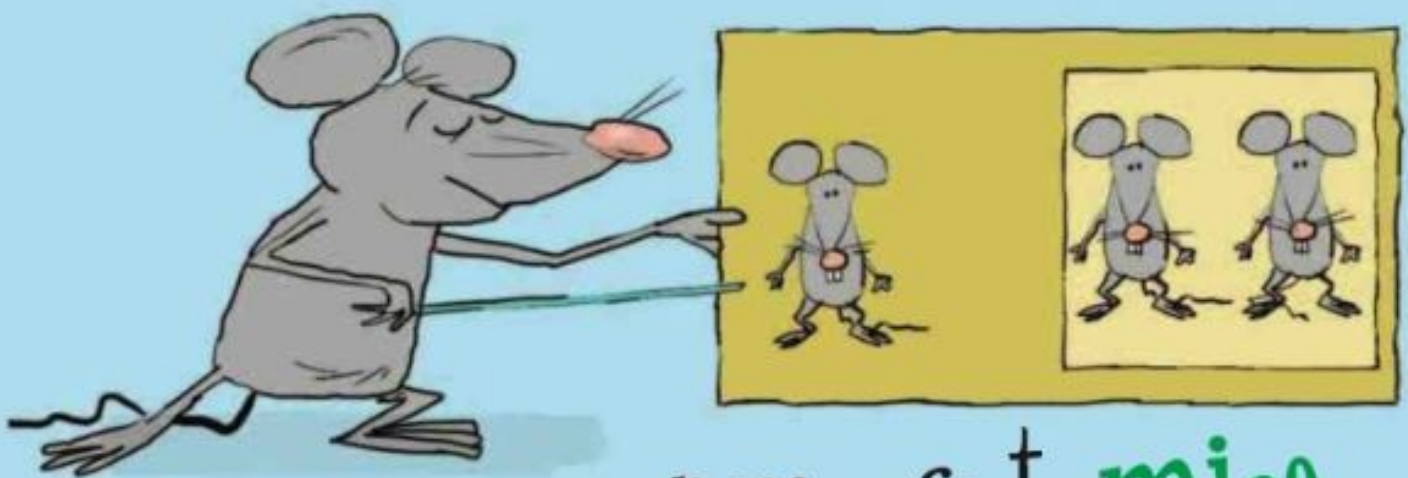


sometimes plurals
change the vowels,
like tooth becoming **teeth**.

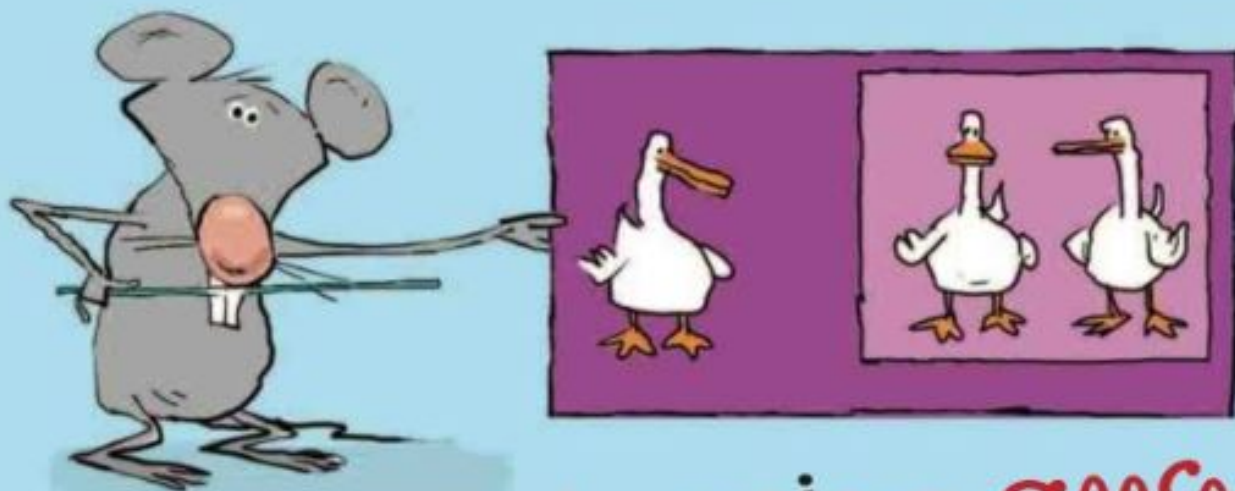




Like man to **men**,



or mouse to **mice**



or goose becoming **geese**.

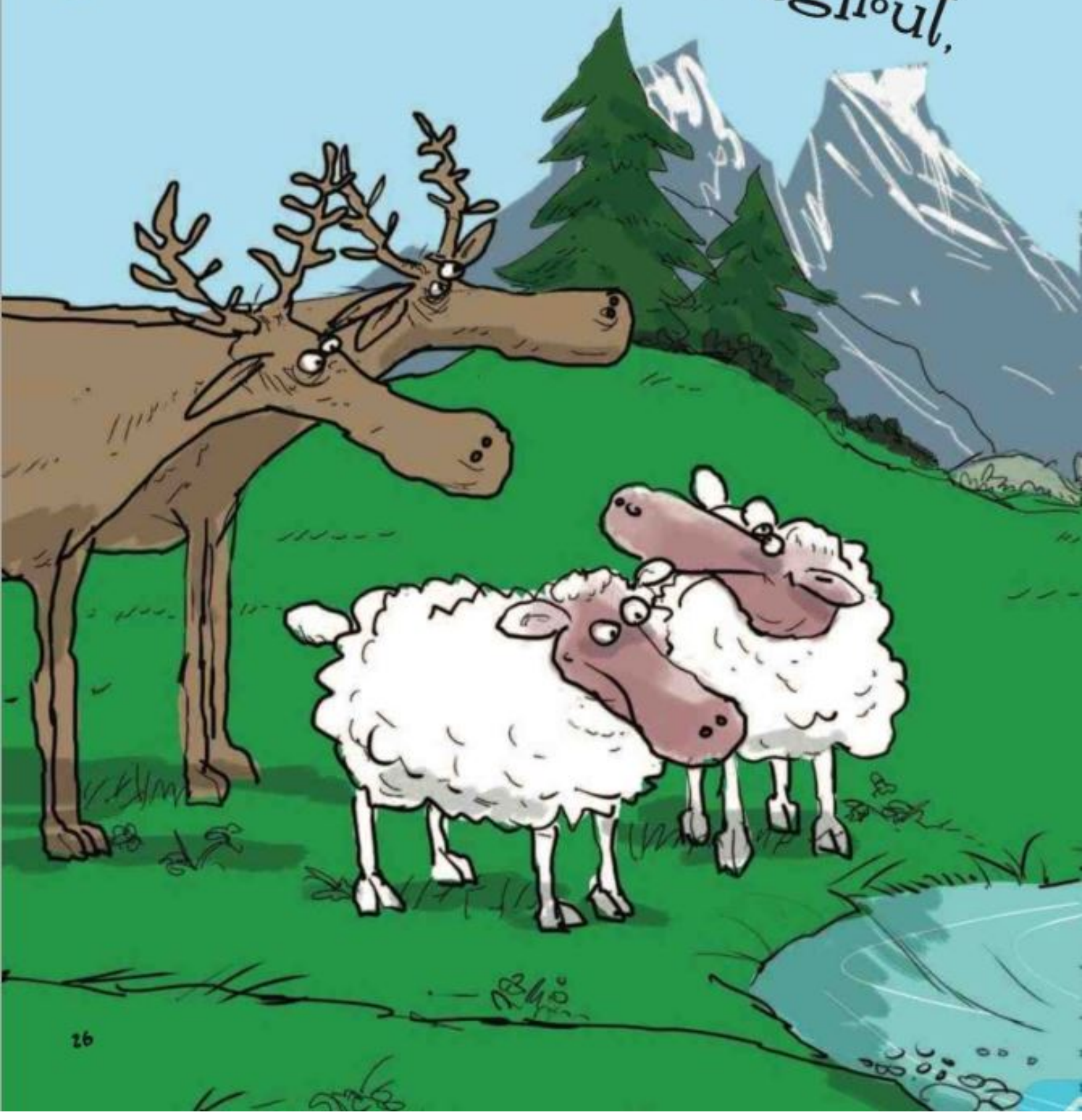
Others? seems they had no rules
When the language folks devised 'em.



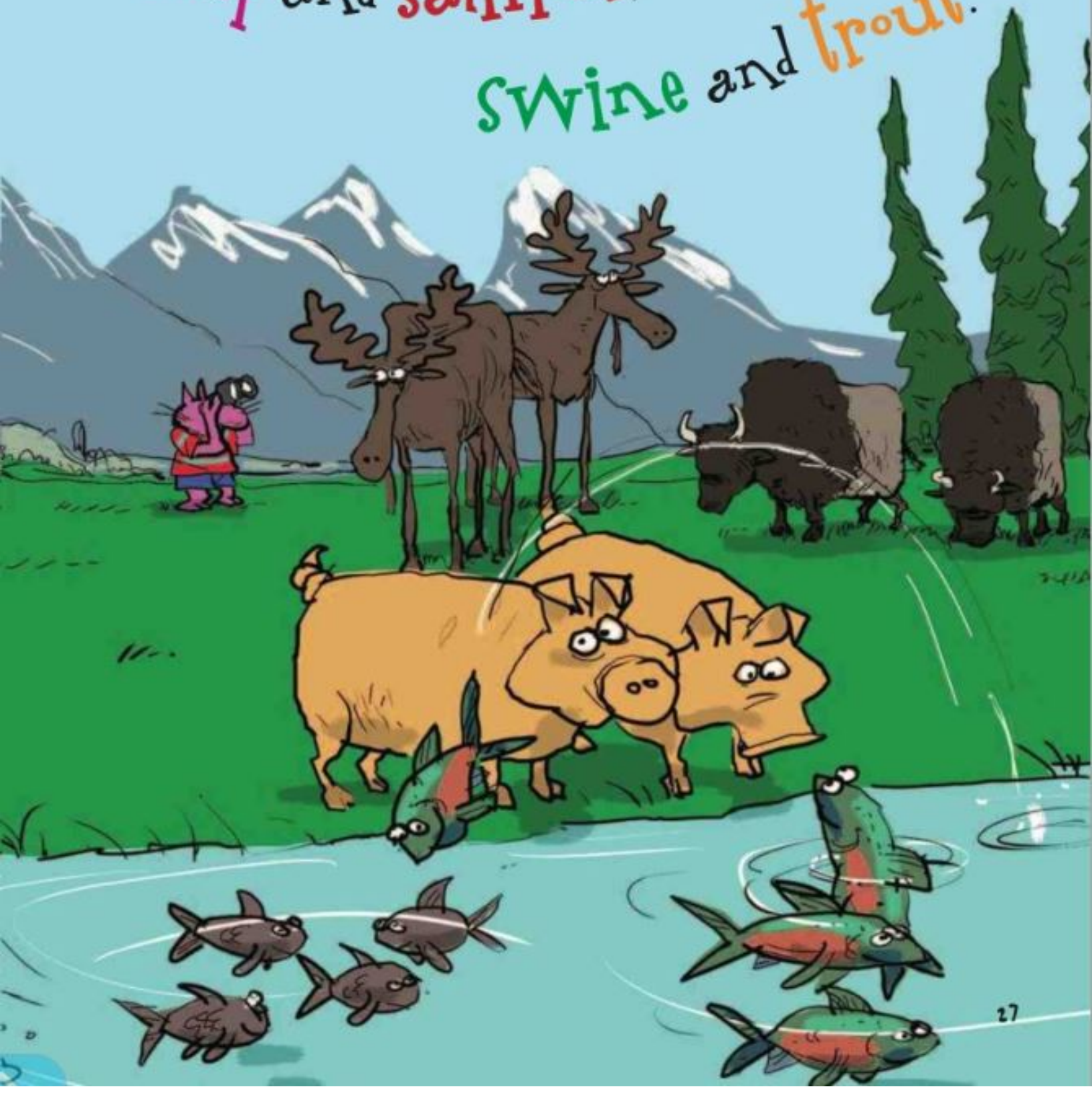


Like child becoming **children**—
we just have to memorize 'em!

Certain nouns, when plural,
always stay the same throughout,



like deer and moose and bison,
sheep and salmon,
swine and trout.



I wrote this book so kids
could keep it handy on their *shelves*



and look up lots of tricky
plural words all by **themselves!**





So what is
an irregular plural?

Do you know?





We usually form plurals by adding *s* or *es* to the end of the word. We add *es* when the word ends in *s*, *x*, *ch*, or *sh*. Irregular plurals don't follow these rules. This chart will help you know when an irregular plural is called for—and how to form it.

<u>Word ending</u>	<u>To form irregular plural</u>	<u>Example</u>
-fe	Change f to v , then add -s	knife → knives
-f	Change f to v , then add -es	half → halves
-o	Add -es	tomato → tomatoes
-us	Change -us to -i	cactus → cacti
-is	Change -is to -es	analysis → analyses
-on	Change -on to -a	phenomenon → phenomena
Any ending	Change the vowel	foot → feet
Any ending	Change the word	person → people
Any ending	Singular/plural are the same	sheep, deer