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Lesson 4: Plurals of Words Ending in \(y\)

- This lesson explores the plural forms of words ending in \(y\). Your student will learn when to change the \(y\) to \(i\) and when simply to add an \(s\).

- When the final letter of a base word is changed, the student should include that letter when underlining. Note the example on page 4A.
Modern Milestones

Leonardo da Vinci was trained as a painter. His most famous painting is of a woman called Mona Lisa. Many people have just one special talent, but da Vinci was not content to be only an artist. He was also a scientist and an inventor. His notebooks are full of studies of the human body and sketches of his ideas. These ideas include a flying machine and a submarine. Other men of this era also had a wide variety of interests. Today a man with many talents is called a Renaissance man.

This lesson introduces a new pattern for forming the plural of a noun. Some nouns are changed before the -es is added to form the plural. An example is the word study and its plural studies. Looking carefully, you can see that the y at the end of study was changed to an i before the -es was added.

1. Read the passage aloud.

2. Look for the following base words in the passage: train, paint, call, invent, notebook, study, sketch, idea, fly, marine, interest, and talent. Underline each one in blue. (Underline the letters studi for the base word study.)

3. Look for the following suffixes in the passage: -ed, -er, -ing, -or, -s, and -es. Mark each one in yellow.

4. Look for the following prefix in the passage: sub-. Mark it in green.
Leonardo da Vinci was trained as a painter. Leonardo

His most famous painting is of a woman called Mona Lisa. Many people have just one special talent, but da Vinci was not content to be only an artist. He was also a scientist and an inventor. His notebooks are full of studies of the human body and sketches of his ideas. These ideas include a flying machine and a submarine. Other men of this era also had a wide variety of interests. Today a man with many talents is called a Renaissance man.
Some nouns ending in *y* simply add -s to form the plural. For example, the plural of *boy* is *boys*, and the plural of *monkey* is *monkeys*. How do you know whether you need to change the base word before adding -es to a noun that ends in *y*?

The key is the letter that comes before the *y*. Remember that the vowels are *a, e, i, o, u,* and sometimes *y* and *w*. The rest of the letters in the English alphabet are consonants. They are *b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, y,* and *z*.

When forming the plural of a noun that ends in *y*, look at the letter that comes before the *y*. If the letter before the *y* is a vowel, the base word stays the same, and an -s is added. If the letter before the *y* is a consonant, the *y* changes to *i* before -es is added.

1. Read the passage aloud.

2. Look for the following base words in the passage: *train, paint, call, invent, notebook, study, sketch, idea, fly, marine, interest,* and *talent*. Underline each one in blue. (Underline the letters *studi* for the base word *study*.)

3. Look for the following suffixes in the passage: *-ed, -er, -ing, -or, -s,* and *-es*. Mark each one in yellow.

4. Look for the following prefix in the passage: *sub-*. Mark it in green.

Leonardo da Vinci was trained as a painter. His most famous painting is of a woman called Mona Lisa. Many people have just one special talent, but da Vinci was not content to be only an artist. He was also a scientist and an inventor. His notebooks are full of studies of the human body and sketches of his ideas. These ideas include a flying machine and a submarine. Other men of this era also had a wide variety of interests. Today a man with many talents is called a Renaissance man.
Section 2: Copywork

Copy and mark the passage. Look at the opposite page if you need help.

Leonardo da Vinci was trained as a painter.

His most famous painting is of a woman called Mona Lisa. Many people have just one special talent, but da Vinci was not content to be only an artist. He was also a scientist and an inventor. His notebooks are full of studies of the human body and sketches of his ideas. These ideas include a flying machine and a submarine. Other men of this era also had a wide variety of interests. Today a man with many talents is called a Renaissance man.
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The prefix sub- means under or lower. A submarine travels under the sea, while a subway makes its way under the ground.

1. Read the passage aloud.

2. Look for the following base words in the passage: train, paint, call, invent, notebook, study, sketch, idea, fly, marine, interest, and talent. Underline each one in blue. (Underline the letters studi for the base word study.)

3. Look for the following suffixes in the passage: -ed, -er, -ing, -or, -s, and -es. Mark each one in yellow.

4. Look for the following prefix in the passage: sub-. Mark it in green.

Leonardo da Vinci was trained as a painter. His most famous painting is of a woman called Mona Lisa. Many people have just one special talent, but da Vinci was not content to be only an artist. He was also a scientist and an inventor. His notebooks are full of studies of the human body and sketches of his ideas. These ideas include a flying machine and a submarine. Other men of this era also had a wide variety of interests. Today a man with many talents is called a Renaissance man.
Review the instructions on pages 4A and 4B and then try the exercise below.

The following nouns all end in *y*. If the *y* does not change to *i* when forming the plural, write *s* on the first line. Then write the new word.

If the *y* does change to *i*, cross out the *y* and write *i* above it. Write -*es* on the first line. Then write the new word. The first two have been done for you.

1. delay + ___s__ = ______delays______

2. baby + ___es__ = ______babies______

3. key + ______ = __________________

4. cherry + ______ = __________________

5. valley + ______ = __________________

6. history + ______ = __________________

7. pony + ______ = __________________

8. colony + ______ = __________________
Leonardo da Vinci was trained as a painter. His most famous painting is of a woman called Mona Lisa. Many people have just one special talent, but da Vinci was not content to be only an artist. He was also a scientist and an inventor. His notebooks are full of studies of the human body and sketches of his ideas. These ideas include a flying machine and a submarine. Other men of this era also had a wide variety of interests. Today a man with many talents is called a Renaissance man.
Section 2: First Dictation

Write this week’s passage from dictation. Ask for help if you need it.

Leonardo
Leonardo da Vinci was trained as a painter. His most famous painting is of a woman called Mona Lisa. Many people have just one special talent, but da Vinci was not content to be only an artist. He was also a scientist and an inventor. His notebooks are full of studies of the human body and sketches of his ideas. These ideas include a flying machine and a submarine. Other men of this era also had a wide variety of interests. Today a man with many talents is called a Renaissance man.
Section 2: Second Dictation

See if you can write this week’s passage from dictation without asking for help.
4A–E:

Leonardo da Vinci was trained as a painter. His most famous painting is of a woman called Mona Lisa. Many people have just one special talent, but da Vinci was not content to be only an artist. He was also a scientist and an inventor. His notebooks are full of studies of the human body and sketches of his ideas. These ideas include a flying machine and a submarine. Other men of this era also had a wide variety of interests. Today a man with many talents is called a Renaissance man.

Workshop 4C: 1. done  2. done  3. key + s = keys  4. cherry + es = cherries  5. valley + s = valleys  6. history + es = histories  7. pony + es = ponies  8. colony + es = colonies