What are Plural Nouns?

Quite simply, "plural nouns" are two or more of the same noun.

IN ENGLISH, PLURALS ARE FORMED IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS (IN DESCENDING ORDER OF FREQUENCY):

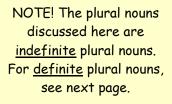
1) add an "-(e)s": cell phone > cell phones; leash > leashes

2) change a vowel within the word: man > men

3) do nothing: one fish > many fish

4) do something weird: child > children









IN DANISH THERE ARE ALSO 4 WAYS TO FORM PLURAL

1) add "-(e)r": pige (girl) > piger (girls)

2) add "-e": dreng (boy) > drenge (boys)

3) do nothing: fisk (fish) > fisk (fish)

4a) Change a vowel within the word barn (child) > børn (children)

4b) change a vowel and add an ending

hånd > hænder (hand > hands)

datter > døtre (daughter > daughters)

bog > bøger (book > books)

In many Danish grammar books, the plurals are divided into "Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and 'Irregular'" as above. Sometimes they refer to these groups without telling you what they mean, so now you know!

Definite Plural Nouns

In English we put "the" in front of a plural noun to make it definite: boys > the boys. In Danish it is a bit different. The ending "-ne" is added to the plural form of the word. Study this grid and you will see how the rules apply.

Indefinite Singular	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
("a" word)	Singular ("the" word)	Plural (words)	Plural ("the" words)
Group 1 (article+base word)	add article to base word	add (e)r to base word	add <mark>ne</mark> to indefinite plural
en pige (a girl)	pigen (the girl)	piger (girls)	pigerne (the girls)
et billede (a picture)	billedet (the picture)	billeder (pictures)	billeder <mark>ne</mark> (the pictures)
en kat (a cat)	katten (the cat)	katter (cats)	katterne (the cats)
Group 2 (article+base word)	add article to base word	add -e to the base word	add <mark>ne</mark> to indefinite plural
en ost (a cheese)	osten (the cheese)	oste (cheeses)	oste <mark>ne</mark> (the cheeses)
et land (a country)	landet (the country)	lande (countries)	landene (the countries)
Group 3 (article+base word)	add article to base word	Do nothing.	add e to the indefinite plural, then add ne
et ord (a word)	ordet (the word)	ord (words)	ordene (the words)
et tog (a train)	toget (the train)	tog (trains)	togene (the trains)
et glas (a glass)	glasset (the glass)	glas (glasses)	glassene (the glasses)

Note that 1) in the case of Group 3, an "e" is added to the plural and then the "ne" is added; 2) if the definite singular contains a double letter, so will the definite plural

