

Belgium ~ Belgian  
 Europe ~ European  
 Hungary ~ Hungarian  
 Norway ~ Norwegian  
 Israel ~ Israeli  
 Brazil ~ Brazilian  
 Germany ~ German  
 Italy ~ Italian  
 Iraq ~ Iraqi  
 Pakistan ~ Pakistani

**5.34** But there are name sets in which we encounter irregularities of form or restrictions in use. Thus where forms I and II (which are always identical) end in *-ese* or *-ish* (*-sh*, *-ch*), the same form is used for V (cf 7.12) but not usually for III and IV. Instead we use either form I plus a suitable noun (*a Chinese lady*), indicated in Table 5.34 by '(N)', '(Ns)', or a distinctive noun form (*a Spaniard*). With many items where form I ends in *-ish*, forms III and IV are traditionally *-ishman*, *-ishmen*, but the resistance to *man* as a human generic causes widespread hesitation to use these forms except of males. The chief irregular sets are listed in Table 5.34.

Table 5.34

	I (and II where relevant)	III	IV	V
China	Chinese	a Chinese (citizen)	Chinese (people)	the Chinese
Japan	Japanese	a Japanese (N)	Japanese (Ns)	the Japanese
Portugal	Portuguese	a Portuguese (N)	Portuguese (Ns)	the Portuguese
Vietnam	Vietnamese	a Vietnamese (N)	Vietnamese (Ns)	the Vietnamese
Switzerland	Swiss	a Swiss (N)	Swiss (Ns)	the Swiss
Britain	British	a British (N)	British (Ns)	the British
England	English	an Englishman	Englishmen	the English
Ireland	Irish	an Irishman	Irishmen	the Irish
Wales	Welsh	a Welshman	Welshmen	the Welsh
France	French	a Frenchman	Frenchmen	the French
Holland				
the Netherlands	Dutch	a Dutchman	Dutchmen	the Dutch
Scotland	Scots	a Scotsman	Scotsmen	the Scots
Denmark	Danish	a Dane	Danes	the Danish
Sweden	Swedish	a Swede	Swedes	the Swedish
Finland	Finnish	a Finn	Finns	the Finnish
Poland	Polish	a Pole	Poles	the Polish
Spain	Spanish	a Spaniard	Spaniards	the Spanish

**NOTE** [a] For Britain, there is limited currency of *Briton(s)* as forms III and IV (informally also *Britisher(s)*), with *Britt(s)* more informal still.

[b] For Scotland, there are alternatives as follows: form I *Scottish*, *Scotch*; form III *a Scot*, *a Scotchman*; form IV *Scots*, *Scotchmen*; form V *the Scotch*. But the use of *Scotch(-)* is controversial; *Scotch* tends to be limited to designating such things as *whisky*.

[c] *Arabic* is form II, *Arab(s)* forms III–V, but the actual locational noun *Arabia* is now only rarely used to denote the large area of the Middle East concerned.

## Number

### 5.35

The grammatical category of number, operating for example through subject–verb concord and pronominal reference, requires that every noun form be understood grammatically as either *singular* or *plural*. Singular relates to the quantity 'one' for count nouns, to the unique referent for most proper nouns (eg: *Tokyo*), and to undifferentiated mass for noncount nouns. (Plural relates to the quantity 'two or more' for count nouns, to the unique referent for some proper nouns (eg: *the Azores*), and to individual operational units that are seen as reflecting plural composition (eg: *binoculars*, *goods*). For example:

Singular: This *suit* fits me and I'll buy it.

*Nara* was full of tourists when I visited it.

The *milk* is sour and I bought it only yesterday.

Plural: Two/three/several *students* are hoping you will see *them*.

The *Azores* are administered by Portugal but *they* are nearly a thousand miles away.

I thought my *binoculars* were in this drawer but I can't find *them*.

### NOTE

[a] The distinction between singular and plural is not always clear-cut; for different reasons, there is vacillation over such words as *politics*, *mumps*, *data*, *criteria*.

[b] Within 'plural', there is evidence in the language for some special provision for dual number; cf such words as *both*.

## Plural formation

The vast majority of English nouns are count, with separate singular and plural forms. The singular is the unmarked form (cf 2.7) and as such is the citation form of the word (for example, in dictionaries). For the most part, plurals are formed in a regular and predictable way:

(a) in sound:

– add /ɪz/ if the singular ends with a sibilant, namely:

/s/ as in *horse* /z/ as in *prize*

/ʃ/ as in *blush* /ɪʒ/ as in *mirage*

/tʃ/ as in *church* /dʒ/ as in *language*

for example: /praɪz/ ~ /praɪzɪz/

– add /z/ if the singular ends with a vowel or with a voiced consonant other than a sibilant