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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.

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. 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.
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
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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.

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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.*)

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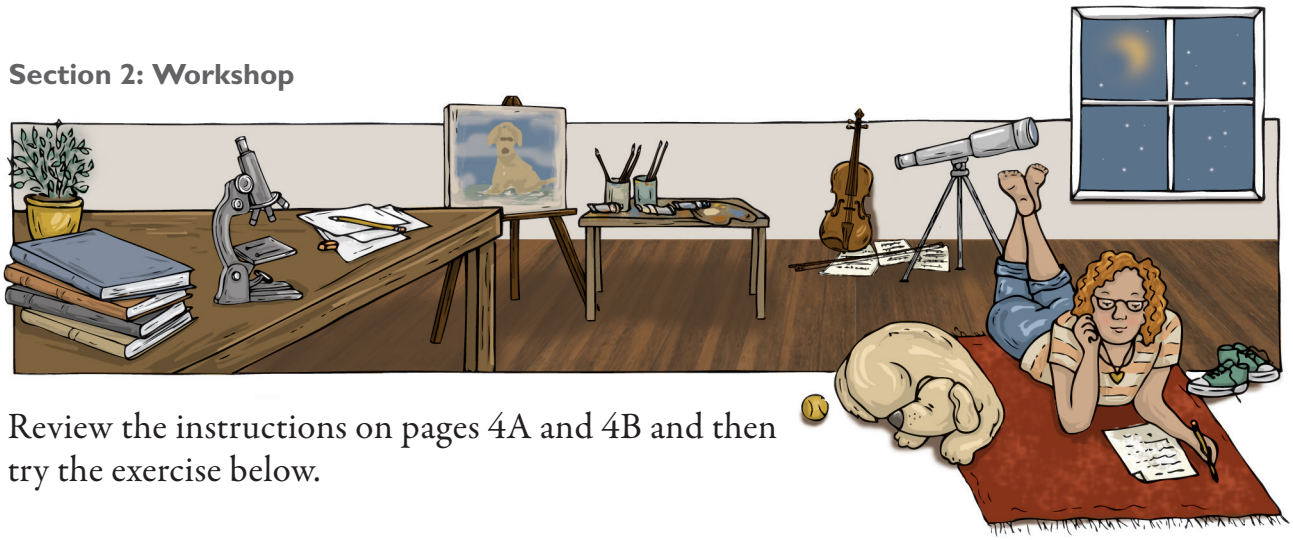

Review the instructions on pages 4A and 4B and then try the exercise below.

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 + _____ = _____

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.*)

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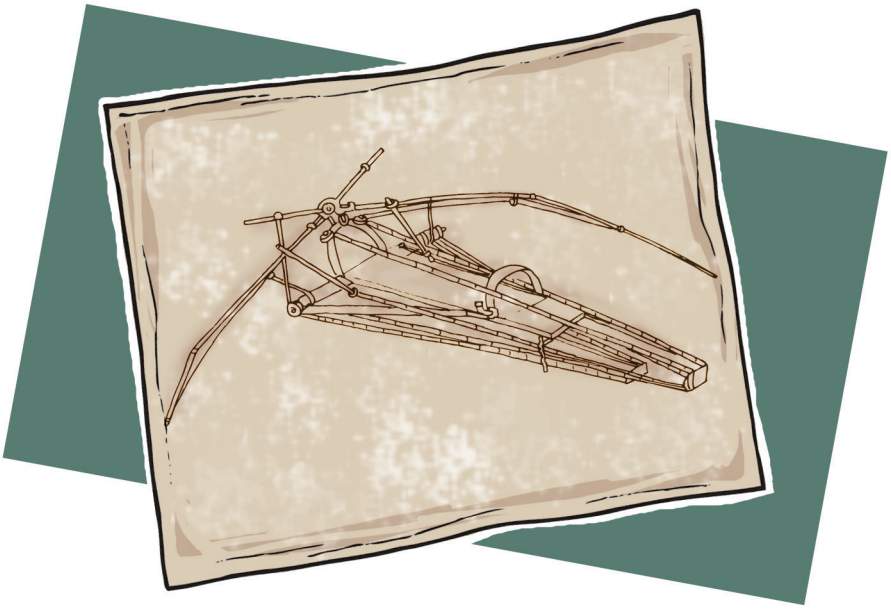

Section 2: First Dictation

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

Leonardo

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.

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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 − y + ies = cherries
5. valley + s = valleys 6. history − y + ies = histories 7. pony − y + ies = ponies
8. colony − y + ies = colonies