"Humor" has been defined as the sudden occurrence of the unexpected. A funny (humorous) plural, it follows by logologic, is a plural that ends with an unexpected letter. Since most plurals in English are formed by adding an S to the singular, plurals that end with other letters are funny (strange).

Several lists of funny plurals ending with each letter of the alphabet have been previously published in Word Ways (Dave Silverman's Kickshaws (The Plural Project) in August 1970, Ralph Beaman's "Plurals" in November 1970 and February 1971 with addenda in February 1972 and May 1982 Colloquy). However, such lists usually contain a plurality of collective nouns (nouns where the plural is the same as the singular, like FISH). These are the analogues of puns. Equally pun-like are plurals of hyphenated words where a nonterminal part of the word is pluralized (like MOTHERS-IN-LAW). Funnier are plurals that differ from the singular due to the change of internal letters (like MEN). The funniest plurals are formed by adding a letter other than S to the end of the word. These words are derived from languages other than English that use sounds other than S to indicate plurality.

Thus, we have a logological challenge: what is the funniest list of plurals we can find? Below is a list of funny plurals, scored from 0 to 3 with 0 being funniest:

0 = plural formed (basically) by adding a letter
1 = plural spelled differently from singular
2 = plural spelled differently from singular, and contains punctuation
3 = plural spelled the same as the singular

All entries are from Merriam-Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary, except those marked N13, which are from the Third International; entries in brackets are probable dictionary artifacts. Can readers improve on this list?

A vas vasa 0
B Slubbi Sleyb (N13) 1
C calpulli calpulllec (N13) 0
D grant-in-aid grants-in-aid 2
E ala alae 0
F sharif ashraf (N13) 1
G aire airig (N13) 0
Another way a plural could be funny is by pluralizing in the exact opposite way one expects: that is, by dropping a terminal S instead of adding one. Can the reader think of a word that does this (see Answers and Solutions)?

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