

Possessive Nouns



By Ms. Adams
Revised by Mr. C

What are possessives?

- Possessives show ownership.
- They show something belongs to someone or something.
- In other words, they “possess” something.
- For example, if we want to show that a book belongs to the boy, it would be stated:

the boy's book

How might you say these ideas using possessive form?

- The coat belongs to the girl.
✓ the girl's coat
- The bone belongs to the dog.
✓ the dog's bone
- The pencil belongs to the teacher.
✓ the teacher's pencil
- The jump ropes belong to the students.
✓ the students' jump ropes

3 Rules to Make Possessives

- Rule 1:
To form the possessive of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and s ('s) = **car** = **car's**
- Rule 2:
To form the possessive of a plural noun ending in **s**, add only an apostrophe (') = **dogs** = **dogs'**
- Rule 3:
To form the possessive of a plural noun that does not end in **s**, add an apostrophe and s ('s) = **mice** = **mice's**

Rule 1:

To form the possessive of a singular noun, add an apostrophe and s ('s)

- A noun is a person, place, or thing
- “Singular” means that there is only one (when there is more than one, it is called “plural”)
- For example, if the singular noun “cat” has a brush, the possessive form is:

the cat's brush

Let's Practice

Singular Possessives

The lady owns the coat.

1. The ladies coat
2. The ladys' coat
3. The lady's coat

The lady owns the coat.

1. The ladies coat

2. The ladys' coat

 3. The lady's coat

The man has a belt.

1. The mans belt
2. The mans' belt
3. The man's belt

The man has a belt.

1. The mans belt

2. The mans' belt

 3. The man's belt

Frank owns the boat.

1. Franks boat
2. Frank's boat
3. Franks' boat

Frank owns the boat.

1. Franks boat

 2. Frank's boat

3. Franks' boat

Special Plural Possessive Notice

When working with plurals **and** possessives, make sure the **plural** is written correctly **FIRST**, then take care of following rules 2 and 3 to turn it into a possessive.

Rule 2:

For a plural noun ending in **s, add only an apostrophe (')**

Let's say one boy owns a cat. That is written as:

The boy's cat.

What if he has two brothers and the cat belongs to all three of them?

- Take care of the plural first:

The boys

This shows there is more than one boy. Now we need to show that they all own the cat by putting the apostrophe in the correct spot following **Rule 2**:

The boys' cat.

Not: The boys's cat.

Rule 2 Another Example:
**For a plural noun ending in *s*, add
only an apostrophe (')**

- If three girls share a book:

The three girls' book

Not: the three girls's book

Let's Practice

Plural Possessives

More than one lady owns a business.

1. Lady's business
2. Ladies' business
3. Ladies's business

More than one lady owns a business.

1. Lady's business

 2. Ladies' business

3. Ladies's business

Two dogs have one kennel.

1. The dogs' kennel
2. The dogs kennel
3. The dog's kennel

Two dogs have one kennel.

- 😊 1. The dogs' kennel
2. The dogs kennel
3. The dog's kennel

Let's Practice

both together!

One ring belongs to one girl.

1. The girl's ring
2. The girl's ring
3. The girls ring

One ring belongs to one girl.



1. The girl's ring
2. The girl's ring
3. The girls ring

One bike belongs to three boys.

1. The boys's bike
2. The boy's bike
3. The boys' bike

One bike belongs to three boys.

1. The boys's bike

2. The boy's bike

 3. The boys' bike

Four cooks own one kitchen.

1. The cooks' kitchen
2. The cooks' kitchens
3. The cook's kitchen

Four cooks own one kitchen.

- 😊 1. The cooks' kitchen
2. The cooks' kitchens
3. The cook's kitchen

Several tools belong to dad.

1. Dad's tools
2. Dads' tools
3. Dads tool's

Several tools belong to dad.

- 😊 1. Dad's tools
2. Dads' tools
3. Dads tool's

Some nouns are made into plurals without adding **s**.

man

men

mouse

mice

child

children

Review of the **Special Plural Possessive Notice**

Remember, when working with plurals **and** possessives, make sure the **plural** is written correctly **FIRST**, then take care of following rules 2 and 3 to turn it into a possessive.

Rule 3:

For a plural noun that does not end in **s**, add an apostrophe and **s** ('s).

Let's say one man owns a car. That is written as:

The man's car.

What if he has two brothers and the car belongs to all three of them?

- Take care of the plural first:

The men

This shows there is more than one man. Now we need to show that they all own the car by putting the apostrophe and s in the correct spot by following **Rule 3**:

The men's car.

Not: The mens's car.

Rule 3:

For a plural noun that does not end in **s**, add an apostrophe and **s** ('s).

- The cars belong to the men.
✓ The men's cars.
- The cheese belongs to the mice.
✓ The mice's cheese.
- The children own the toys.
✓ The children's toys.

Let's Practice

plural possessives

More than one mouse lives in
one nest.

1. The mice's nest
2. The mices' nest
3. The mices nest

More than one mouse lives in one nest.

- 😊 1. The mice's nest
2. The mices' nest
3. The mices nest

More than one woman has some dishes.

1. Womens' dishes
2. Women's dishes
3. Womens's dishes

More than one woman has some dishes.

1. Womens' dishes

 2. Women's dishes

3. Womens's dishes

More than one person fishes in more than one river.

1. The fishermen's river
2. The fishermen river's
3. The fishermen's rivers

More than one person fishes in more than one river.

1. The fishermen's river

2. The fishermen river's

😊 3. The fishermen's rivers

Review

- Singular possessive nouns add 's
 - ✓ the man's glove
 - ✓ Joe's hat
- Plural nouns ending in s, add only the apostrophe ' .
 - ✓ the four cats' toy
- Plural nouns that do not end in s, add 's.
 - ✓ the men's cars