ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Possessive nouns

Difficulty level: Easy

English, Literacy, and Communication

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Overview of the concept

This is how you show who something belongs to in one short word, like saying it is Maya's bike instead of the bike of Maya. A note that says this is Sam's lunch stops the wrong person from taking it, and a sign that says the dog's bowl tells everyone whose bowl it is. Possessives keep writing short and clear, which is why they show up in every note, label, and story you write. One small apostrophe is all it takes to show ownership.



Rule

To show that something belongs to a singular noun, add apostrophe s.

For a plural noun that already ends in s, add only an apostrophe. For a plural noun that does not end in s, add apostrophe s.

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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Write the possessive of 'Sara' in: This is Sara book.

SOLUTION

The book belongs to Sara, so use a possessive form.

For a singular noun, add apostrophe plus s: Sara's.

So: This is Sara's book.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Write the possessive of 'dogs' (more than one dog) in: The dogs toys are here.

SOLUTION

The toys belong to more than one dog, so the noun is plural.

When a plural noun ends in s already, just add an apostrophe: dogs'.

So: The dogs' toys are here.

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Practice questions

1 Choose the possessive form: This is Tom bike.

- A Tom's
- B Toms
- C Toms'
- D Tom

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2 Choose the possessive form: The girls room is tidy. (more than one girl)

- A girl's
- B girls'
- C girls
- D girls's

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3 Choose the possessive form: That is James car. (James ends in s)

- A James'
- B James's
- C James
- D Jame's

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4 Which word needs an apostrophe? The cats tail is long.

- A cats
- B tail
- C is
- D long

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5

The lounge belongs to all the teachers. Which sentence is correct?

A The teacher's lounge is upstairs.

B The teachers' lounge is upstairs.

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6

Write as a possessive: the pen of Anna.

A Anna's pen

B Annas pen

C Anna' pen

D Annas' pen

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7 Choose the possessive form: The women scarves are colourful. (more than one woman)

- A woman's
- B women
- C women's
- D womens'

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8 Choose the possessive form: That is Mr Lee office.

- A Mr Lees
- B Mr Lee's
- C Mr Lees'
- D Mr Lee

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9

Which sentence means the books belong to more than one child?

A The child's books are here.

B The children's books are here.

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10

The girl hat is red and the boy hat is blue. Which hat is the girl's?

A The red hat

B The blue hat

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ANSWER KEY

1. Tom's

2. girls'

3. James's

4. cats

5. The teachers' lounge is upstairs.

6. Anna's pen

7. women's

8. Mr Lee's

9. The children's books are here.

10. The red hat

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