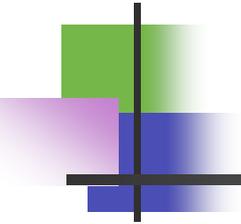
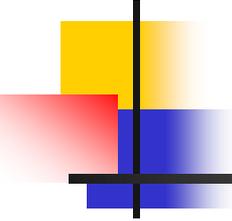


The Apostrophe Use with Possessives



By Tom Souter



What are possessives?

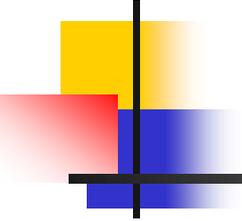
- Possessives show ownership.
- They show something belongs to someone or something.
- In other words, they “possess” something.
- For example, if we want to show that a book belongs to the boy, it would be stated:

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' jumprope

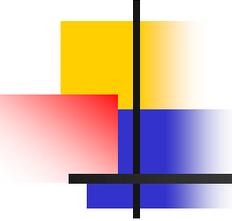


There are 3 rules to
guide how to make
possessives.

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 as opposed to having more than one or “plural”
- For example, if the singular noun “cat” has a brush, the possessive form is: **the cat's brush**



Follow the rule!

- Even if the singular noun ends in “s” follow the rule and add an ‘s

bus = bus’s class = class’s

boss = boss’s

Practice Singular Possessives

- The lady owns the coat.
- the lady's coat
- The man has a belt.
- the man's belt
- Gus owns the boat.
- Gus's boat

Rule 2:

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

- A plural noun means there is more than one. For example, “**boy**” is singular and “**boys**” is plural.
- Since one **s** was already added to make this noun plural, a second **s** is not added.
- Example:

the three girls’ notebook

Not: the three girls’s notebook

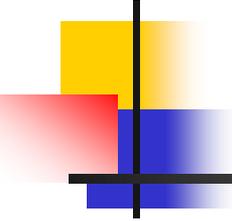
Practice Plural Possessives

- three ladies own the business
- the three ladies' business
- the pen belongs to the dogs
- the dogs' pen
- the students own the computer
- the students' computer

Practice Singular &

Plural Possessives

- the ring belongs to the girl
- the girl's ring (singular)
- the bike belongs to three boys
- the three boys' bike (plural)
- the cooks own the kitchen
- the cooks' kitchen (plural)
- the tools belong to dad
- dad's tools (singular)



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

man

men

mouse

mice

child

children

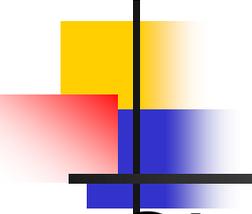
Rule 3:

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**

Practice plural possessives

- The bone belongs to the dogs.
- The dogs' bone
- The dishes belong to the women.
- The women's dishes
- The people own the seats.
- The people's seats
- The basketball belongs to the players.
- The players' basketball



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 man's ears