

# Possessive Nouns

The possessive form of a noun shows ownership.

**Example:** The hat of the cowboy is large.

The above sentence is awkward and can be rewritten using the possessive form of the noun cowboy.

**Example:** The cowboy's hat is large.

## How to form the possessive.

- To form the possessive of a noun (either singular or plural) that does not end in s, add an apostrophe and s to form the possessive.

**Example:**

the woman's book	-	the women's books
the child's book	-	the children's books
the man's book-		the men's books
someone's book	-	people's books

- To form the possessive of a singular noun that ends in s, add an apostrophe and s unless the second s makes pronunciation difficult; in such cases, add only the apostrophe.

**Example:**

Lois's car	-	James' sandwich
but Moses' leadership	-	Sophocles' dramas

- To form the possessive of a plural noun that ends in s, add only the apostrophe.

**Example:**

the girls' locker room  
the boys' blue jeans

## Practice Exercises

- Fill in the appropriate words under each heading.

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Singular Possessive</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Plural Possessive</u>
1.	child	_____	_____	_____
2.	lawyer	_____	_____	_____
3.	brother	_____	_____	_____
4.	mouse	_____	_____	_____

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Singular Possessive</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Plural Possessive</u>
5.	patron	_____	_____	_____
6.	princess	_____	_____	_____
7.	sheep	_____	_____	_____
8.	deer	_____	_____	_____
9.	woman	_____	_____	_____
10.	lady	_____	_____	_____
11.	thief	_____	_____	_____
12.	class	_____	_____	_____
13.	ox	_____	_____	_____
14.	fox	_____	_____	_____
15.	ally	_____	_____	_____

II. Rewrite each group of words to show ownership.

**Example:** the light of the dawn - the dawn's light

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. the pages of the books    | 9. the rattles of the babies  |
| 2. the room of the class     | 10. the owner of the ox       |
| 3. the tails of the monkeys  | 11. the hat of the man        |
| 4. the keys of the piano     | 12. the hats of the men       |
| 5. the edge of the knife     | 13. the children of the woman |
| 6. the legs of the table     | 14. the children of the women |
| 7. the husbands of the wives | 15. the dress of the lady     |
| 8. the rattle of the baby    |                               |