

y4

Apostrophes to mark plural possession

Focus – possessive apostrophe



Where do we see apostrophes?

Apostrophes look like this:



Think about what words you know that have an apostrophe in.

In the next two minutes, **write as many examples as you can** on a whiteboard.

Can you sort the words into categories?

(Clue: think about the two rules for apostrophe use.)



Let's recap! What is 'possession'?

If you possess something, you have, own, or control something.

Marlon has a football.

You could say:

It is Marlon's football.

The football belongs to Marlon.
The apostrophe shows us possession.



Let's recap: singular possession

Which are correct?



The girl's chemistry set



The babies' rattle



The dogs' bone

Let's recap: singular possession

Which are correct?



The girl's chemistry set ✓



The babie's rattle ✗

The baby's rattle ✓

Babies is plural.
Here there is only one baby!



The dogs' bone ✗

The dog's bone ✓

The apostrophe needs to be before
the s to show singular possession, as
there is only one dog with a bone.



Recap – Singular possession

Singular is when something belongs to **one person** or **thing**.

The girl's chemistry set.

one girl owns a chemistry set.

Rule

Add the apostrophe to the subject/owner of the item.

The **apostrophe** shows **possession**.

The apostrophe goes before the s.



Recap – Singular possession

If the word ends in a 's' for example,
Lewis or **class** then you go either

Rule

- a) Just add an apostrophe after the **s**
- b) Add **'s**

Both are grammatically correct.

Lewis' pen

or

Lewis's pen

class' teacher

or

class's teacher





What if there are lots of babies with lots of rattles? Which is correct?

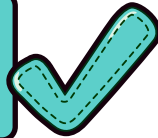
- a) The **babies'** rattles
- b) The **baby's** rattles
- c) The **babie's** rattles





What if there are lots of babies with lots of rattles? Which is correct?

a) The **babies'** rattles

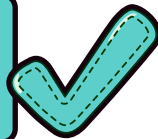


b) The **baby's** rattles

c) The **babie's** rattles



a) The babies' rattles



There are three babies (plural) and three rattles (also plural) – so both need a s to make them both plural nouns.

To show possession, you **add the apostrophe to the person/thing that possesses the item.**

So the babies own the rattles, so the apostrophe is added to babies. It goes **AFTER the s** to show plural possession.



Plural possession

Plural is when there is more than one person or thing that possess the item/s e.g.

The apostrophe goes **after the s** in plural possession.

The boys' football

- the football belongs to the **boys**, not just one boy. There is **only one football**.



Plural possession

The boys' footballs

- the footballs belong to the **boys**, not just one boy.
There are **more than one football**.



The tables' numbers

- the numbers belong to the **tables**.
There **are multiple tables** and **multiple numbers**.





What about a bus that belongs to children?

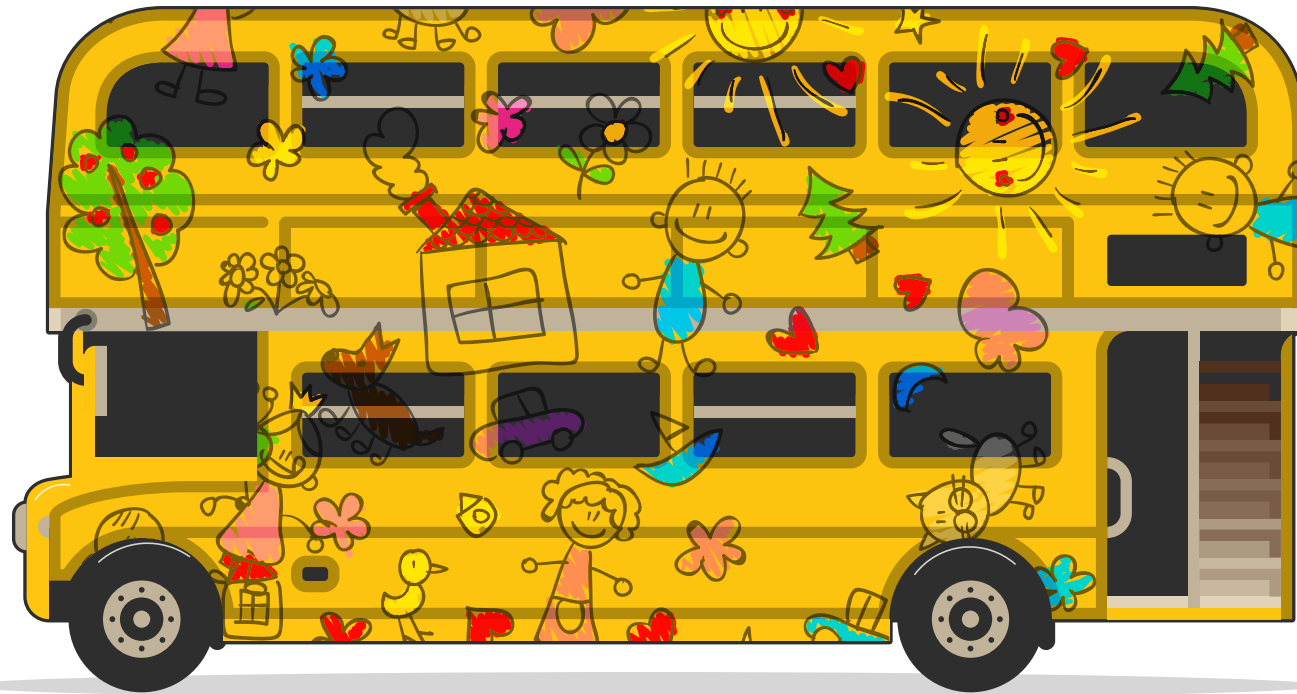




Go to one corner of the room to vote for **childrens'** and one other corner for **children's** – which answer is the most popular? Be ready to explain your choice.

?

childrens' bus



?

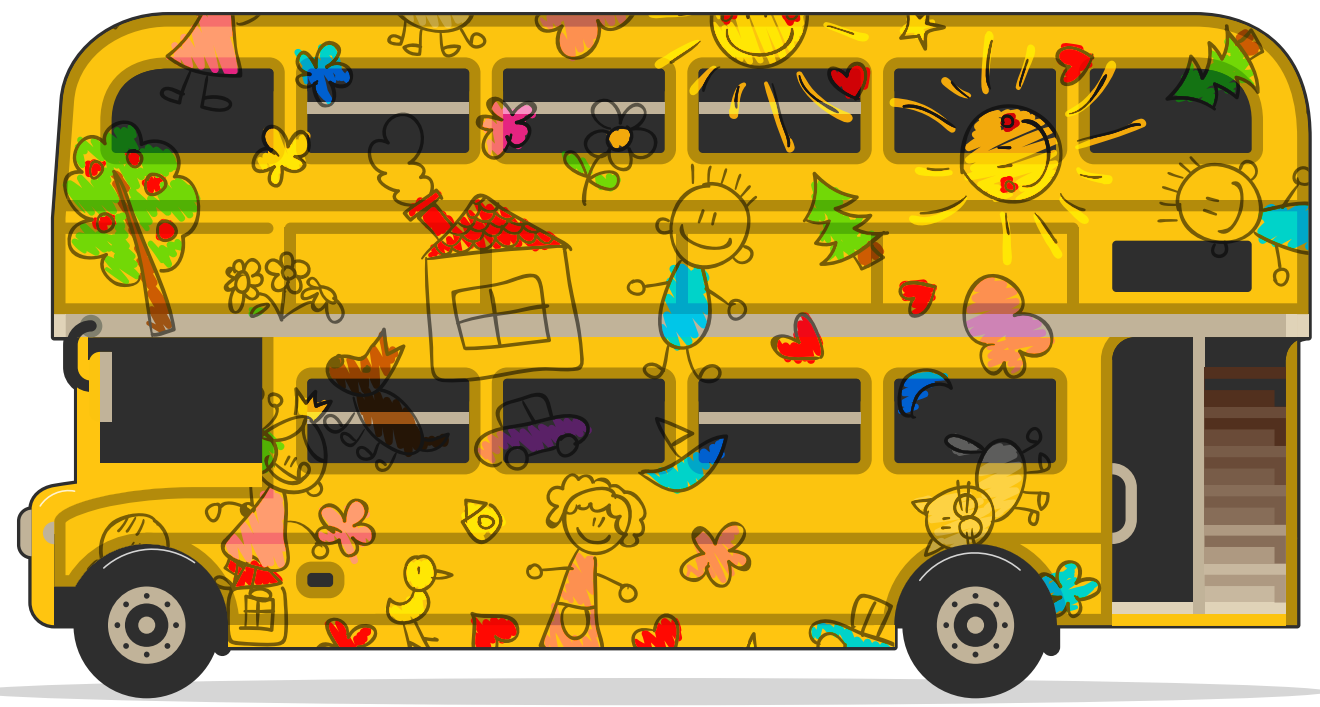
children's bus





Go to one corner of the room to vote for **childrens'** and one other corner for **children's** – which answer is the most popular? Be ready to explain your choice.

childrens' bus ❌



children's bus ✅

children's bus



Children is an example of a word which is already plural.
Children is an **irregular plural noun**.

The word children signifies there is a group of children
(*more than one*).

So, if the word is already plural then **you add the apostrophe before the s** and not after.

For example:

Men (more than one man)

People (more than one person)







The men's bus

The people's bus



A summary of the rules – possession

Type of ownership	Rule	Example
 Singular noun 1 owner	Add 's to end of the word	Simon's dog The boy's school
 Singular noun 1 owner ending in s	Add ' to the end of the word or Add 's to the end of the word	Chris' shoes or Chris's shoes The class' teacher or the class's teacher
 Plural noun 2+ owners ending in s	Add ' to the end of the word	Girls' football Kids' lunch boxes
 Plural noun 2+ owners not ending in s	Add 's to the end of the word	Children's games People's opinions





Task: Add the missing apostrophes (think singular and plural!)

There is a lovely childrens park close to my house.

The kids bikes were all parked outside the parks gate.

All the peoples cars were driving past with their windows down.

Trees leaves were falling down all over the park and some had even fallen onto the neighbours cars.





Task: Add the missing apostrophes (think singular and plural!)

Answers

There is a lovely **children's** park close to my house.

The **kids'** bikes were all parked outside the **park's** gate.

All the **people's** cars were driving past with their windows down.

Trees' leaves were falling down all over the park and some had even fallen onto the **neighbours'** cars.





Spot the odd one out and explain why

Women's shoes are all on the second floor.

The cats' food bowls were all lined up in a row.

The rivers' banks were overflowing.

I saw ten babies' prams on the prom yesterday.





Spot the odd one out and explain why

Answers

Women's shoes are all on the second floor.

The cats' food bowls were all lined up in a row.

The rivers' banks were overflowing.

I saw ten babies' prams on the prom yesterday. ✘





Spot the odd one out and explain why

Answers

I saw ten *babie's* prams on the prom yesterday. ✘

It should be -

I saw ten *babies'* prams on the prom yesterday. ✔

Also, you may have noticed only one sentence contains an irregular plural noun -

Women's shoes are all on the second floor.





True or false – be ready with your reasoning!

You just need to add ' and s to make something possessive.





True or false – be ready with your reasoning!



You just need to add ' and s to make something possessive.

FALSE

Sometimes you do not need to add an s if the word already **ends in an s**

*e.g. A princess who owns a wand become **princess' wand***





True or false – be ready with your reasoning!

Any word ending in **s** needs an apostrophe before it.





True or false – be ready with your reasoning!



Any word ending in **s** needs an apostrophe before it.

FALSE

Only words that are **showing possession**, or have **an omission** (contractions) need an apostrophe. Words that end in **s** like **slippers** or **cars** are **plural nouns and do not need an apostrophe**. A word like **boss** is a **singular noun** that just ends in an **s**.



Tasks

Task one – mix and match the statements to make the table about rules correct.

Task two – complete the questions

Challenge

Create your own rules poster, which concisely explains how to use singular and plural possessive apostrophes. It needs to be short, snappy and easy to understand!

Task 1

Cut out each of the boxes and put into the right column headings

Children's games People's opinions	Plural noun 2+ owners ending in s	Girls' football Kids' lunch boxes
Add to to the end of the word Or Add 's to the end of the word	Add to to the end of the word	Singular noun 1 owner ending in s
Simon's dog The boy's school	Add 's to the end of the word	Chris' shoes or Chris's shoes The class' teacher or the class's teacher
Plural noun 2+ owners not ending in s		

Task two - using plural possessive apostrophes

1. Add in the missing apostrophes.

Every day in the holidays, the childrens library would open between 12pm and 2pm.
Once a year, the womens rugby team would travel to Japan to take part in a tournament.
There were lots of boys PE kits left behind after school today.
In the pet shop, the guinea pigs cages were all left wide open, so unsurprisingly they all escaped!

2. Apostrophe checker
Tick or cross whether the apostrophes are placed in the right places.

Once upon a time, there were lots of princesses' who loved their palaces so very much.
 During the autumn, deciduous trees' leaves fall to the ground.
 The dog's barks that the untrained dog's barks were in landfill.

and possessive apostrophes all missing)
age is dodgy and theres a hole from
the local club. They cant take anyone
the library yet, but I will do as soon as

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Challenge

Create your own rules poster, which concisely explains how and where to use singular and plural possessive apostrophes.

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