

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Plural and Possessive -s

Language Conventions | Plural and Possessive -s

Plural and Possessive -s

Look at all the cats.

Sam's dog is over there!



Introductory Activity

Plural

Plural = more than one.

The plural for many common nouns are formed by adding an -s.



An -s can be added to show possession of a **singular** noun, however, it needs to have an apostrophe in the correct place to make it grammatically correct. The new teacher belongs to the school, which is singular.

School's new teacher

To form the possession of a singular noun, add an apostrophe, followed by the letter -s.

Singular	Plural	Singular Possession
dog	dogs	The dog's fur.
garden	gardens	The garden's flowers were pretty.
handbag	handbags	The handbag's handles were big.



Word nerds have heated arguments over whether to use an additional -'s with possession of a singular noun which ends in -s (such as cactus, bus, James). Views are conflicting about how to show possession when writing such nouns.



There is no right answer; the best advice is to choose a rule and stay consistent.



We are going to follow this rule:

When we have common nouns which end in the letter -s (lens, cactus, bus, etc.) or proper nouns (Mr. Jones, Texas, Christmas), we will write the word as we would speak it.

For example, since most people saying, "Mr. Hastings' pen" would not pronounce an added -s, we would write Mr. Hastings' pen with no added -s.

Most people would pronounce an added -s in "Jones's," so we'd write it as we say it: Mr. Jones's golf clubs.



What would be the possessive noun of these words?



cactus







Jess

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Look at the singular noun, then write the **plural** and then a sentence which shows the **possession** of a singular noun.

Singular	Plural	Singular Possessive -s
football	footballs	The football's bold, black and white colours stood out amongst the green grass.
ice cream		
swing		
scooter		

Independent Focused Activity

Plural or Possessive Game



Play the game using the Plural or Possessive Activity Sheet.

Can the you identify which sentences are plural and which are singular possessive? Look out for possessive proper nouns ending in -s.







out these sentence cards and lay them face down in a pile	
I enjoyed using my friend's scotter.	
1 borrowed my dad's trainers to go to the park but they were too b	ig)
The dogs were barking wildly by the gates.	
The birds sat in the trees and twittered.	
Jack had two dogs , which he had taken for a walk.	
The wheels on my bike were flat.	
Jess's running was the fastest in the park.	
I fed some bread to the ducks.	
There were two slides, one for babies and one for larger children.	
The park's sign read 'do not drop litter.'	
We ate our lunch on the café's outdoor seats.	
Adam and Kamal played hide and seek in the trees.	
Some people ate their delicious picnics on the playing fields.	
The ice cream van's music was playing to entice the children to bu	4 from them.
Charles's mum was ready for home.	
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Plural or Possessive

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Each player takes turns to pick up a sentence and read it aloud. If the player correctly determines whether the noun is plural or singular possessive, they roll the die and move that









Assessment



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Application Activity

Write a short description of the park on a hot day in Summer. You must include at least three examples of the plural -s and three examples of the singular apostrophe -s.

