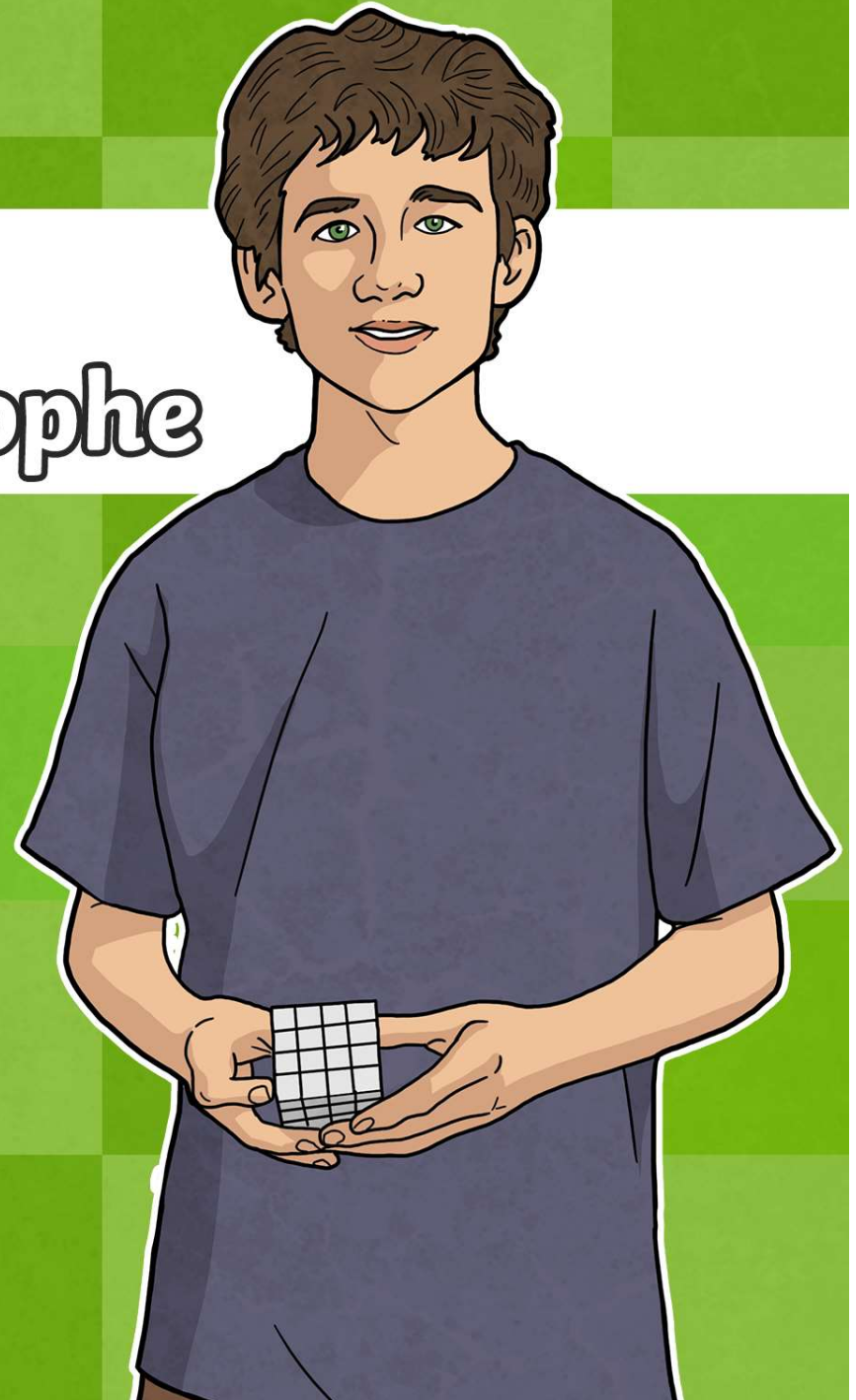




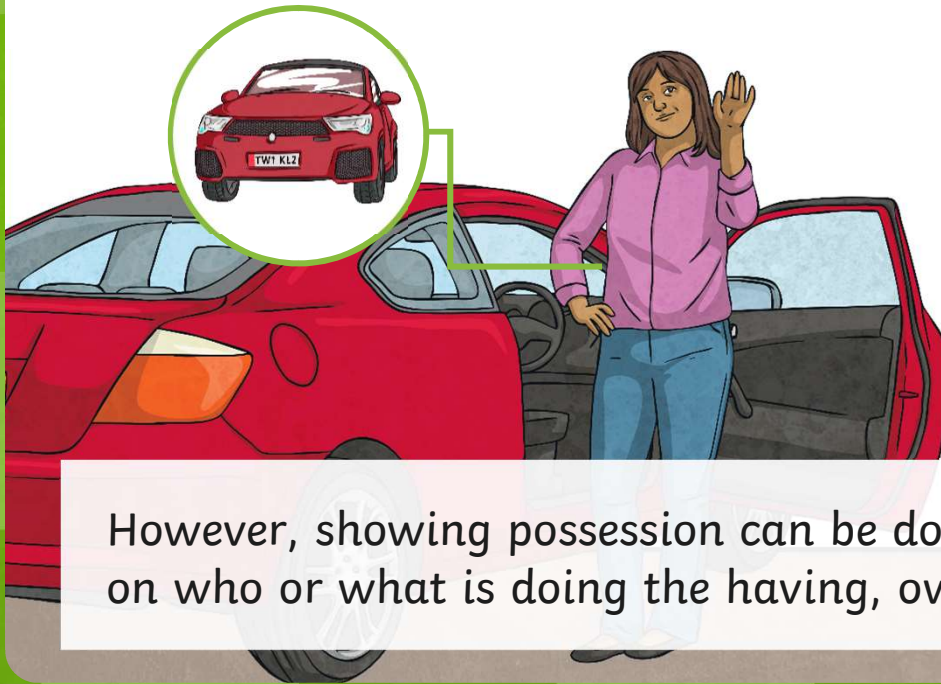
# Using the Possessive Apostrophe



# What Is Possession?

Possession means that you **have**, **own** or **control** something.

If you want to show that someone has, owns or controls something when you are writing, you can use an **apostrophe** and, often, **the letter s**.



However, showing possession can be done in different ways depending on who or what is doing the having, owning or controlling.

# Singular Possession

**Singular** possession means that **only one** person, animal or thing **has, owns** or **controls** something.

For example, if one girl owns a bike, it is **the girl's bike**.

**the car's door**

The door belongs to one car.

**an apple's pips**

The pips belong to one apple.

**Maya's backpack**

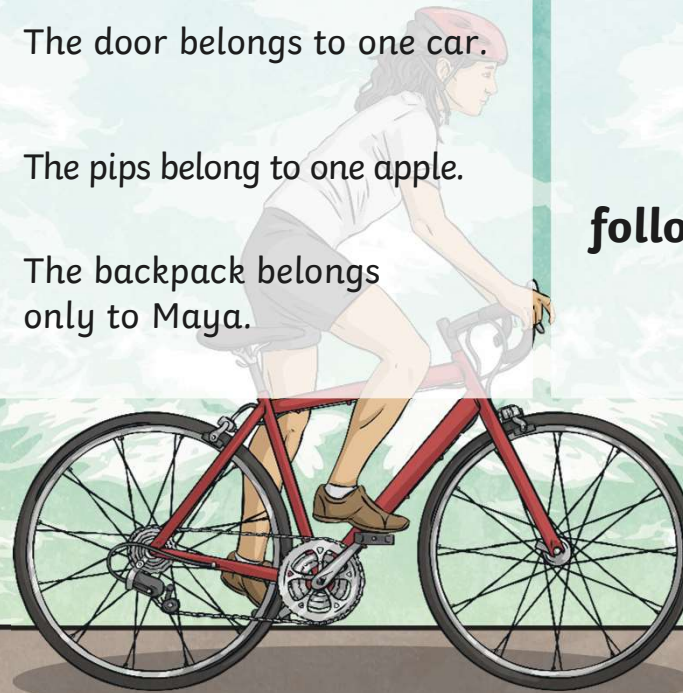
The backpack belongs only to Maya.

To show that something belongs to a singular noun, we usually add...

**an apostrophe**



**followed by the letter 's'**



# Ending in an S

Sometimes, the singular nouns that **have, own** or **control** something are already words that end with the letter s.

To show that something belongs to a singular noun that already ends with an s, you should usually add...

**an apostrophe**



**followed by another 's'**



the class's teacher

The teacher belongs to one class.

the princess's dress

The dress belongs to one princess.

James's clothes

The clothes belong only to James.



# Ending in an S: Exceptions

Sometimes, people choose not to use the extra s after the apostrophe to show possession.

This can be the case if the word is old or traditional, e.g.



Jesus'  
miracles

This can be the case if the word would sound unusual if you added an extra s, e.g.



Andres'  
uniform

This can be the case if it is a specific place who do not use the extra s in their own name, e.g.



St Thomas'  
Hospital



# Plural Possession

**Plural** possession means that **more than one** person, animal or thing **has, owns** or **controls** something.

For example, if two boys own one bike between them, it is **the boys' bike**.

**the cars' lights**

The lights belong to multiple cars.

**two apples' juice**

The juice belongs to both of the apples.

**some teachers' lessons**

The lessons belong to multiple teachers.

To show that something belongs to a plural noun, we usually add...

**an apostrophe**



**after the s that is already there**



# Irregular Plural Nouns

A plural noun is irregular when it changes its spelling to show that there is more than one.

a **child**



the **children**

one **foot**



two **feet**

Sometimes, the spelling of a plural noun might be the same as the singular form, e.g.

one **sheep**



two **sheep**

a **samurai**



the **samurai**

To show that something belongs to an irregular plural noun, you usually add...

an **apostrophe**



**followed by the letter s**



**lots of mice's whiskers**

The whiskers belong to multiple mice.

**the teeth's enamel**

The enamel belongs to many teeth.

# Plural Possession

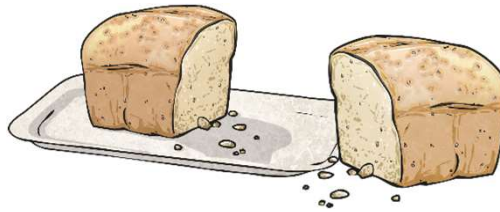
Here are some examples of plural possession...



Two of the **volcanoes'** summits are visible in the photo.

Reveal Answer

Reveal All Answers



The **loaves'** glaze is so shiny.

Reveal Answer



The **ponies'** diet is mostly grass.

Reveal Answer



The **houses'** chimneys are all made from brick.

Reveal Answer



The **boys'** costumes attracted a lot of attention.

Reveal Answer



# Possession

When do **cats** need an apostrophe?



The word 'cats' does  
**yes**

Is there more than one cat?

Example: 'cats' as the  
plural **no**

Is the next word something  
that belongs to the cats?

**no**

Is the next word something  
that belongs to the cat?

**yes**

No apostrophe needed!

**yes**

**Apostrophe** needed after the letter s.

e.g. The cats' hats were  
very cool in the 1920s.

**Apostrophe** needed before the letter s.

e.g. The cat's hats were  
very cool in the 1920s.

# Questions

Which sentence shows the apostrophe put into the correct place to show possession?

**a**

Along the street, the **houses'** chimneys were painted all different colours.

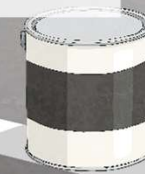
**b**

Along the street, the **house's** chimneys were painted all different colours.

**c**

Along the street, the houses **chimney's** were painted all different colours.

Reveal Answer



# Questions

Which sentence shows the apostrophe put into the correct place to show possession?

**a**

The **heroe's** medals were presented at the ceremony.

**b**

The **heroes'** medals were presented at the ceremony.

**c**

The heroes **medal's** were presented at the ceremony.

Reveal Answer

# Questions

Which sentence shows the apostrophe put into the correct place to show possession?

**a**

The **dog's** tails wagged as they waited for him to throw the ball.

**b**

The **dogs'** tails wagged as they waited for him to throw the ball.

**c**

The dogs **tail's** wagged as they waited for him to throw the ball.

Reveal Answer

# Questions

Which sentence shows the apostrophe put into the correct place to show possession?

**a**

Amy cleaned out the **ponies'** stables.

**b**

Amy cleaned out the **ponie's** stables.

**c**

Amy cleaned out the **ponies** stable's.

Reveal Answer

