

Possessive

It is used with nouns referring to people, groups of people, countries, and animals. 'Belonging to' or 'ownership' is one of the relationships it expresses :

John owns a car. ('John' is the possessor or owner)
It is **John's** car.

America has some gold reserves. ('America' is the owner)
They are **America's** gold reserves.

Form

To form the possessive, add 's ('apostrophe -s') to the noun.

If the noun is plural, or already ends in -s, just add: ' (an apostrophe).

For names ending in -s:

In speaking- we add the sound /iz/ to the name, but -in writing- the 's form is common. e.g. **Thomas's** book, **James's** shop.

Examples:

The car of John = **John's** car.

The room of the girls = **The girls'** room.

Clothes for men = **Men's** clothes.

The sister of Charles = **Charles's** sister.

The boat of the sailors = **The sailors'** boat.

The possessive is also used to refer to shops, restaurants, churches and colleges, using the name or job title of the owner. Examples:

the grocer's

the doctor's

the vet's

the newsagent's

the chemist's

Smith's

the dentist's

Tommy Tucker's

Saint Mary's

I've got an appointment at **the dentist's** at eleven o'clock.

TEST Say if these sentences are correct or wrong.

1. Peter's boat is really beautiful. 2. I like dog's John. It is so cute! 3. I had a walk with Thomas's girlfriend. 4. Women's jobs are very hard! 5. I went to the dentist.

ANSWERS 1. Peter's boat is really beautiful. OK | 2. I like dog's John. It is so cute! WRONG> John's dog | 3. I had a walk with Thomas's girlfriend. OK | 4. Women's jobs are very hard! OK | 5. I went to the dentist. WRONG> to the dentist's.