

Apostrophe Use: Possessive Case of Nouns

With the addition of 's (or sometimes just the apostrophe), a noun can change from a plain old person, place or thing to a person, place or thing that owns something.

✚ If the noun doesn't end with an s, add 's to the end of the noun.

This is Mary and a dog. The dog is Mary's; Mary is not the dog's.

This thick blind is capable of shutting out the summer sun's heat and light.

This is the way to the men's room.

She got a job in the children's section of the library.

✚ If the noun ends with an s, add just the apostrophe to the end of the noun.

This is the boys' bedroom.

My parents' house is a lovely old one.

Where is Jess' book bag?

The scissors' handles just snapped off.

✚ If you have a compound noun, change only the last one to the possessive.

Mike and Amanda's new loft apartment is really neat.

Please tell Annie and Mary's mother that they'll be late getting home from school.

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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