

# Possessive 's and s'

Using s to show who things belong to

## 's/s' + people, things, places

In this unit you learn to talk about who things belong to using **'s**, **s'** and **of**. You also learn some more irregular forms for plural nouns.

### Use of the apostrophe ('s and s')

You use **'s** and **s'** to talk about people's possessions and their relation to each other.

*Silvia is **David's** wife.*

*Anna and Mark are **Jane's** cousins.*

***My parents'** best friends live in Canada.*

Sometimes, when the meaning is clear, you can use **'s** without a noun.

*I've seen that car before. It's **Diana's**.*

*Rob is at **Tom's**. (= Tom's house)*

If a name ends in **s**, you just add the apostrophe **'** to show possession.

*I think **James'** painting is better than mine.*

### Remember!

You use **of** + *noun*, not **'s** to talk about objects.

*The walls **of** the house are green.*

*There's a button at the back **of** the computer.*

You can also talk about times and places using **'s** and **s'**.

*I've just got three **days'** work in a shop.*

*Bob's lucky. He's having a **week's** holiday next month.*

***London's** shopping centres are very busy in December.*

**Some irregular plural nouns**

| Singular | Plural |
|----------|--------|
| half     | halves |
| fish     | fish   |
| foot     | feet   |
| woman    | women  |
| sheep    | sheep  |
| tooth    | teeth  |
| wife     | wives  |

**Exercise 1**

Match the words with the pictures.

1 The girls' cats

a



2 The boy's book

b



3 The girl's cat

c



4 The boys' book

d



5 The girl's cats

e



6 The boy's books

f



## Exercise 2

Choose the correct word.

- 1 I brush my **tooth** / **teeth** every morning and evening.
- 2 King Henry VIII of England had six **wives** / **wife**.
- 3 Some types of bird have blue **foot** / **feet**.
- 4 The woman gave Ben and Tina **halves** / **half** an apple each.
- 5 Some of the sheep in the field **was** / **were** black.
- 6 These fish **are** / **is** goldfish.

## Exercise 3

Write the missing words in sentence B so that it means the same as sentence A.

- 1 **A** This is the car that belongs to Keith.  
**B** This is Keith's car.
- 2 **A** The house where my parents live is quite old.  
**B** \_\_\_\_\_ house is quite old.
- 3 **A** People say there's gold where a rainbow ends.  
**B** People say there's gold at the \_\_\_\_\_ a rainbow.
- 4 **A** I'm going on holiday for a week.  
**B** I'm going to have a \_\_\_\_\_ holiday.

## Exercise 4

Put each sentence into the correct order.

- 1 dog's / what's / name / Alex's / ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 put / at / stairs / I've / the bottom / your coat / the / of / .  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Wayne / new / starting / in / is / a / time / a week's / job / .  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 the / nationalities / what / students' / are / ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 of / the / you / what's / the hotel / name / stayed / where / ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 top / the / sportsmen and women / you / at / world's / can watch / the Olympic Games / .  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 5**

Complete the sentences by writing one word or phrase in each gap.

of the sofa | six months' time | my wife's | London's | the back of |  
of the swimming pool

- 1 The new school will open in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 The arm \_\_\_\_\_ is broken.
- 3 I think you'd better speak to the manager \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ job takes her all over the world.
- 5 Something was written on \_\_\_\_\_ the photograph.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ West End is where most of the theatres are.

**Exercise 6**

Use the word in brackets to complete each sentence.

- 1 My \_\_\_\_\_ (father) family came from Spain.
- 2 The front wheel \_\_\_\_\_ (car) was badly damaged in the accident.
- 3 The \_\_\_\_\_ (students) exam results made them very happy.
- 4 Both my \_\_\_\_\_ (parents) families were very poor.
- 5 Sarah was surprised by the cost \_\_\_\_\_ (tickets).