

## LESSON 19: POSSESSIVE S and 'S



Look at these examples:

- *This is **Mr. Brown's** hat.*
- *Excuse me, but where are **the men's** clothes?*
- *This is a photo of my **grandparents'** house.*

Mr Brown



hat



- We usually use **of**, not an apostrophe (') with **things**:

Ex: What's the name **of** the road? (NOT the road's name) particularly after words like. We might talk about a visit to the **beginning, end, back, front, top, bottom** cinema:

Ex: *Did you have a good time? Not really. We arrived late, we sat at **the back of the cinema**, and we didn't see **the beginning of the film**.*

## Rules for using the apostrophe (')

*Have you seen **Ben's** passport anywhere?  
My **boss's** office is over there.*

1. We use **'s** with irregular plural nouns such as **women, men, children and people**:

2. **The twins' hats**

We use **'** with regular plural nouns



We normally use the apostrophe with people, to say that **something belongs to someone**

**A's B => B belongs to A**



## Note



We can use the **apostrophe without a noun**, if the meaning is clear:

This is my camera, but where is **Jack's**?

We do this when we talk about **visiting some shops, our dentist and our doctor**:

- I'm going to **the dentist's** tomorrow.
- Did you get some chicken from **the butcher's**? Yes, but I forgot to get any tomatoes at **the greengrocer's**.



## PRACTICE

### Exercise 1:

### Talking about other people's things, and their friends and family

Matt, Lucy and their children Thomas and Daisy are having a picnic with their Brazilian friends, Julieta and Rafi, and their boys, Lucas and Sabino. Add two-word phrases with 's or s'.

LUCY Daisy, have you got Daddy's camera<sup>0</sup> (camera/Daddy) in your bag? We could take a nice picture.

RAFI Can you pass me .....<sup>1</sup> (shoes/Sabino), Julieta? We'll go for a little walk in a minute.

JULIETA I can't reach them, Rafi, but I think they're under .....<sup>2</sup> (coat/Lucas).

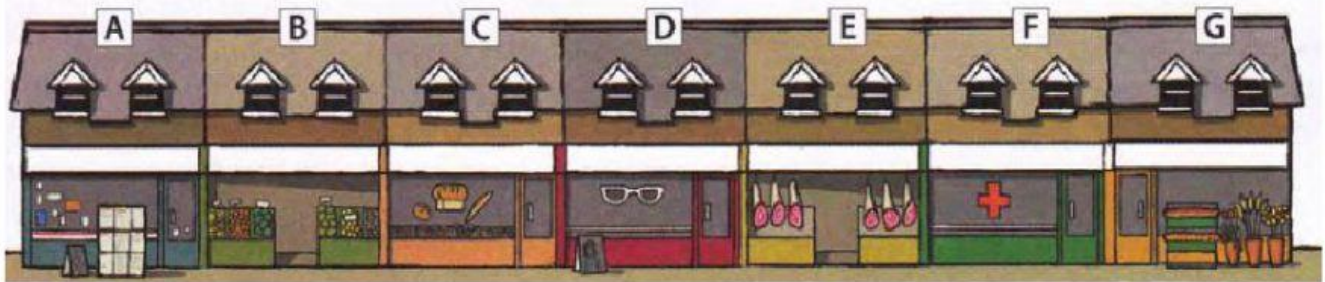
LUCY OK, smile everyone! Thomas, don't eat .....<sup>3</sup> (sandwich/ your sister). It's been on the ground.

MATT What a lovely day for a picnic! Where's the .....<sup>4</sup> (football/boys), Rafi? We could have a game.

### Exercise 2:

## Visiting shops

Henry is leaving a phone message. Add the correct shop names. You don't need to use one of them.



baker's   butcher's   greengrocer's   florist's   newsagent's   chemist's   optician's

'Rosie? I've lost my shopping list, but I think I've got everything. I got some oranges and some onions at the greengrocer's<sup>0</sup>. I got a loaf of brown bread at the .....<sup>1</sup>. I couldn't get your magazine at the .....<sup>2</sup>, because they didn't have any left. Then I went to the .....<sup>3</sup> and bought some more aspirin. Then I picked up your new glasses at the .....<sup>4</sup>. Then I remembered the steaks, and I went back to the .....<sup>5</sup>. Anyway, I'll be in town for the next twenty minutes. Give me a ring if you get this message. Bye!'

### Exercise 3:

#### Talking about the things our friends and family are doing

Izzy is writing an email to her friend Rebecca. Use the words in brackets to help you to make phrases with *mine*, *yours*, *my Dad's*, etc.

Hi Rebecca,

I hope you're enjoying your new job. I think it was a good idea of yours<sup>0</sup> (your idea was good) to go to America. I'm sure it's really interesting there. Things are OK here. Some .....<sup>1</sup> (some of my friends) are going skiing next month, and I'm planning to go with them. Then, in the summer, a .....<sup>2</sup> (one of my dad's friends) has invited all the family to his new house in France. I think it will be fun. By the way, do you remember a .....<sup>3</sup> (one of our schoolfriends), Katie Gray? Well, a .....<sup>4</sup> (one of her flatmates) is a singer, and he's just made a CD! It's actually in the shops now. Can you believe it? Anyway, there's one more piece of news. A .....<sup>5</sup> (one of Paul's colleagues) has asked me to a party on Saturday night. I don't really know him, so I hope it was a .....<sup>6</sup> (my idea was good) to say 'yes'! I'll tell you about it in my next message. Bye for now!

Izzy