

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).