

Possessive -'s

Known as *possessive -'s*, *genitive -'s* or *Saxon genitive*. We use it to show that something belongs to somebody. Read about the different uses in the boxes and do the exercises.

SINGULAR NOUNS

We add **-'s** to a singular noun:
the boy's ball
the girl's father
the pupil's classroom

PLURAL NOUNS

We add an apostrophe (') to a plural noun:
the boys' ball
the girls' father
the pupils' classroom

PROPER NOUNS (NAMES)

Both uses in the examples are allowed:
Chris' dog and/or *Chris's dog*
Doris' cat and/or *Doris's cat*
BUT: *Moses' and Jesus'*

IRREGULAR NOUNS

the child's / children's dog
the mouse's / mice's food
the man's / men's car
the hero's / heroes' fear
the wolf's / wolves' den

-'s vs of

We can use **of** instead of **-'s**, but **-'s** is more usual and natural:
the mother of my son
my son's mother

Notice that the number of balls does not matter. The structure is influenced by the possessor and not the possessed.
 (www.englishclub.com)

	one ball	more than one ball
one boy	 the boy's ball	 the boy's balls
more than one boy	 the boys' ball	 the boys' balls

Rewrite these using the genitive case

- The father of my daughter. _____
- The owner of the car. _____
- He is the boss of my wife. _____
- They are the children of my uncle. _____
- The car belongs to my sister. _____

6. The phone belongs to Louis. _____
7. The bike and bat is owned by my neighbor. _____
8. The writers of the books are Tom and Jerry. _____
9. My aunt is the one who owns the shop. _____
10. The two women are the owners of the houses. _

● ***Join the sentences below by using possessive forms. Stu***

1. The student has a pen. The pen is on the table.

The student's pen is on the table.

2. The man has a car. The car is in the garage.

3. My friends had a party. The party was fun.

4. The women have kids. The kids are playing.

5. India has a population. The population is very large.

6. The children have a mother. The mother is over there.

7. My sisters have friends. The friends are interesting.

8. The teachers had a meeting. The meeting was last week.

POSSESSIVE 'S'

- *Choose the best answers.*

- 1. This car is my car, and that car is**
 - a) Toms
 - b) Tom
 - c) Tom's
- 2. We need more pens. Where are your ...?**
 - a) pens
 - b) pen's
 - c) pens'
- 3. Do these books belong to Alex? Are they ...?**
 - a) his'
 - b) he's
 - c) his
- 4. My ... like to go swimming at a lake near our home.**
 - a) brother's
 - b) brothers'
 - c) brothers

5. **My ... favorite food is pizza. They both share one every week.**
a) brother's
b) brothers'
c) brothers
6. **How many ... did you ride your bicycle last week?**
a) times
b) time's
c) times'
7. **My ... house is over there. They live just across the street.**
a) cousins'
b) cousins
c) cousin's
8. **(A) How many ... do you have?
(B) Two.**
a) apple's
b) apples
c) apples'

9. **Monday was their last ... to study before their test on Tuesday.**
a) days'
b) day's
c) day
10. **How many ... did the children eat at the park?**
a) chocolate
b) chocolate's
c) chocolates
11. **... bicycle is broken so he's going to take a bus to work today.**
a) Robert's
b) Roberts'
c) Robert
12. **The ... teacher is standing at the front of their classroom.**
a) student's
b) students'
c) students