

Using Possessive Nouns

What are possessive nouns?

Possessive nouns are used to denote ownership or to detail an aspect or attribute of something. If a phrase can be changed to say that a noun belongs to someone or something, then a possessive noun may be used. Remember, the possessive normally is placed in front of the item it owns.

Singular Possessives...

⇒ **Singular nouns are made possessive by adding an 's onto the word**

If a noun is representing only *one* of something, then it is singular. Remember, even if a singular noun ends in *-s* (such as *molasses*), an *'s* is still added.

Plural Possessives...

⇒ **Most plural nouns are made possessive by adding *only* an apostrophe onto the word**

In other words, if the plural form of the noun ends in *-s*, then the plural possessive form will only use an apostrophe.

⇒ **Irregular plural nouns are made possessive by adding 's onto the word**

Irregular plural nouns (such as *geese*) change form rather than adding an *-s* to make them plural. Thus, we treat them like singular nouns when making them possessive.

Some steps...

⇒ **Make the noun singular or plural as needed**

⇒ **Add an apostrophe after the word**

⇒ **Add an "s" after the word if needed**

Singular Possessives look like...

- *The hat of the boy is green.*

- *The boy's hat is green.*

Plural Possessives look like...

- *The hats of the boys are green.*

- *The boys' hats are green.*

- *The hats of the children are green.*

- *The children's hats are green.*

These steps look like...

- *The boy hat fell to the ground.*

- *The boy' hat fell to the ground.*

- *The boy's hat fell to the ground.*