

Cases

There are three types of cases

1. Nominative Case

A noun or pronoun is in the nominative case if it is used as the subject of a verb.

e.g. – *Sachin Tendulkar* scored a century.

Clue Put *Who* in active sentence and *What* in passive sentence before the verb.

2. Objective Case

A noun or pronoun is in the objective case if it is used as the object of a verb.

e.g. – Sachin Tendulkar scored *a century* (Active).
– A century was scored by *Sachin Tendulkar* (Passive).

Clue Put *What* in active sentence and *Whom* in the passive sentence after the subject and the verb.

3. Possessive Case

A noun is said to be in the possessive case if it denotes possession, authorship, origin, kind.

e.g. – *Amit's* house is at the back-side.

How is Possessive Case Formed

- i. By adding 's to a singular noun.
- ii. By adding 's to plural nouns not ending in s.
e.g. – *Children's* school, *Men's* club.
- iii. By adding only an apostrophe to a plural noun ending in s.
e.g. – *Boys'*, *victims'*, *pilgrims'*.
- iv. By adding only an apostrophe to a singular noun when there are hissing sounds.
e.g. – *Jesus'* blessings, for *peace'* sake, for *conscience'* sake.

Rules of Possessive Case

- i. In case of a compound noun, the possessive sign is attached only to the last word.
e.g. – *My brother-in-law's* marriage.
– *The Queen-of-England's* residence.
- ii. When two or more nouns show joint possession, the apostrophe sign is put with the latter only.
e.g. – Dharmendra is *Sunny* and *Bobby's* father.
- iii. The words his, hers, its, theirs, yours, ours are possessive and they are not written with the possessive sign.
e.g. – Neither did his efforts succeed nor ~~your's~~/yours.
- iv. The adverb 'else' combined with indefinite pronouns (somebody, anybody, etc) is expressed in possessive case as 'somebody else's' in place of 'somebody's else'.
e.g. – Is it your house? I thought it is ~~somebody's~~
else-/somebody else's?

v. The words **church, house, school, shop** are often omitted after a possessive case.

e.g. – Yesterday, I met my friend at *St John's*.

vi. The possessive case is chiefly used with the names of living things.

vii. The possessive case is also used with nouns denoting time, space or weight.

e.g. – *Stone's* throw away distance

– *A minute's* time

– *A day's* journey

Confusing Nouns

Words	Meaning	Example
Advice	Singular means an opinion or suggestion.	The teacher gave many <i>pieces of advice</i> to the students before the exam.
Advices	Plural (Advices) means information.	The invigilator gave <i>advices</i> to the students before the exam.
Cloth	Singular means unfinished product.	We give <i>cloth</i> to tailor to get the <i>clothes</i> stitched.
Clothes	Plural means garments.	
Colour	Singular and plural means red, green, etc.	A realist sees true <i>colours</i> of a <i>colour</i> .
Colours	(Plural only) implies 'true personality of someone'.	
Force	Singular means strength.	
Forces	Plural means the military organisations for air, land and sea.	<i>Forces</i> landed at the disputed spot on time.
Content	Singular means satisfaction.	I am <i>content</i> with the <i>contents</i> of this book.
Contents	Plural means parts.	
Light	Singular means radiance.	There was a <i>light</i> on the ascetic's face.
Lights	Singular and plural means lamps.	Diwali is a festival of <i>lights</i> .
People	Singular is used when we are talking about masses.	<i>People</i> of India, <i>Peoples</i> of Europe.
Peoples	Plural means people belonging to different cultures and ethnicities.	
Practice	Singular means exercise of a profession.	It is compulsory for new doctors that they have a <i>practice</i> in villages for 2 years in the beginning of their career.
Practices	(Both singular and plural) means habit.	
Custom	Singular means tradition.	One should respect one's <i>custom</i> and traditions.
Customs	Plural means a department.	The <i>customs</i> department seized illegal goods at the airport.