The Genitive Case

## 1. What is the Genitive Case?

The genitive case is used to show possession or relationship between things. In English, it is usually formed by adding ’s (apostrophe + s) to a noun.

Example:

John's car = the car that belongs to John

## 2. When to Use the Genitive Case

**You use the genitive case when:**

* Showing possession

Sara’s phone = the phone of Sara

* Talking about relationships

Mike’s brother = the brother of Mike

* Referring to origins or authors

Shakespeare’s plays = the plays written by Shakespeare

* Talking about time expressions

A day’s work, two weeks’ notice

## 3. How to Use the Genitive Case

### A. With Singular Nouns

**Add ’s to the end:**

The teacher’s book

My friend’s house

### B. With Plural Nouns

**If the plural ends in -s, just add an apostrophe (’):**

The students’ classroom

My parents’ car

**If the plural is irregular (doesn’t end in -s), add ’s:**

The children’s toys

The men’s room

### C. With Compound Nouns

**Add ’s to the end of the whole noun phrase:**

My brother-in-law’s car

The man next door’s dog

### D. With Two People

**If they own something together, add ’s to the second name only:**

Jack and Jill’s house (they share the house)

**If they own things separately, add ’s to both:**

Jack’s and Jill’s books (they have their own books)

## 6. Exercises

A. Rewrite using the genitive case:

1. The car of my sister → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. The toys of the children → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. The house of James → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. The name of the dog → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. The office of the teachers → \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. Choose the correct form:

1. That is (John / John’s) bike.

2. The (girls / girls’) shoes are new.

3. The (cat’s / cats) tail is fluffy.

4. The (men’s / mens’) restroom is on the right.

5. That is (Lisa’s and Tom’s / Lisa and Tom’s) restaurant.

4. Genitive vs "of" Phrases

Sometimes, it’s better to use “of” instead of the genitive:

For non-living things, we often use “of”:

The cover of the book (not the book’s cover)

The end of the road

For long noun phrases, “of” is more natural:

The title of the man who wrote the letter