

# Possessive Nouns

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The possessive form indicates ownership.

There are differing opinions on how to form the possessive.

This can apply to concrete and abstract nouns.

Multiple owners need to be looked at closely.

Can refer to places, by using the owners name or functional title.

# Possessive Form Indicates Ownership

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Examples:

Suzi's horse = the horse belonging to Suzi

Paul's motorbike = the motorbike that belongs to Paul

Mary and Mike's car = the car belonging to Mary and Mike

# Possessive Formation

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There are several opinions on how to form the possessive.

The old-fashioned method

The modern approach

# Old-fashioned Possessive Formation

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The old-fashioned rules are relatively simple.

Add apostrophe + s to the noun

- Suzi's horse
- Fred's motorbike

Unless it ends with an s, then just add the apostrophe.

- Thomas' trousers
- The bus' driver

# Modern Possessive Formation #1

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The modern approach is more in line with the ways in which the words are spoken.

This only affects the words ending in the letter s.

The letter s after the apostrophe is spoken more like a letter z.

Thomas's trousers

The bus's passengers

# Modern Possessive Formation #2

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An exception to the previous slide is when the owners are plural and the plural form is made by adding an s to the singular form.

The cars' engines are tuned to perfection. (cars's would sound odd)

The dogs ate the cats' food. (cats's would sound odd and forced)

Other plurals are treated normally

The children's book arrived today.

The fish's tank is dirty and needs to be cleaned.

# Possessive Formation – Abstract Nouns

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Up to now, we have only seen examples with concrete nouns.

Possessive forms also apply to abstract nouns.

Jenny's mood isn't getting any better.

John's integrity is above question.

Suzi's sense of humour is very dark.

Paul's knowledge is impressive.



# Possessive Formation – Multiple Owners

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If more than one person owns a single item, only the last one in the list gets the apostrophe.

Mary and Mike's car (one car, two people jointly own it)

If several people each have their own item, they all get an apostrophe.

Paul's and John's shoes are black (both people own black shoes)

# Possessive Formation - Places

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Can refer to places, by using the owners name or functional title.

I have an appointment at the doctor's tomorrow morning.

We're invited to the neighbour's for drinks next week.

Sir William Perkins's School is for girls between 11 and 18 years old.

Gino's makes the best pizza in town.