



Plurals and Possessives

A plural s indicates *more than one*. To make most nouns plural, add an **s**:
a pair of socks (more than one sock)
some kids from the neighborhood (more than one kid)
the books for class (more than one book)

A possessive s indicates *ownership*. To make a noun possessive, add an apostrophe and an **s ('s)**:
Alice's restaurant (whose restaurant?)
the mechanic's toolbox (whose toolbox?)
a student's backpack (whose backpack?)

Where do I add the apostrophe to show possession?

To form the possessive of a *singular noun*, add an apostrophe and an **'s**:
the actor's lines
a poem's meter
the school's mascot

To form the possessive of a *plural noun ending in s*, add only an apostrophe:
the students' backpacks
firefighters' trucks
tourists' luggage

To form the possessive of an *irregular plural noun not ending in s*, add an apostrophe and an **'s**:
children's entertainment
the media's role
women's studies

To form the possessive of *nouns in a series*, add a single apostrophe and an *s if ownership is shared*:
Palmer and Colton's book on European history
Larry, Moe and Curly's house

But *if the ownership is separate*, place an apostrophe and an **s** after each noun:
Larry's, Moe's and Curly's coats

To form the possessive of *any singular proper noun*, add an apostrophe and an **s**:
Mary's beauty
St. Nicholas's jolly laugh

To form the possessive of a *plural proper noun*, add only an apostrophe:
the Spartans' championship game
the Dickens's economic woes

Do not use an apostrophe to form the plural of an abbreviation or a number:

PhDs	2010s
DVDs	fours