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 Dickenses’ economic woes

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

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<td>PhDs</td>
<td>2010s</td>
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<td>DVDs</td>
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