

Nouns: Possessive

A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea. A possessive noun shows ownership or relationship. Possessive nouns often use apostrophes. Possessives answer the question "Whose?" Exceptions: its and their

Possessive nouns are formed in several ways:

1) Common nouns- for most common nouns add -'s

- Ex. car -> car's

- Ex. boss -> boss's

- When a plural common noun ends in -s add only '.

- Ex. cars -> cars'

- Ex. puppies -> puppies'

2) Proper nouns- for most proper nouns add -'s

- Ex. James -> James's hat

- When a plural proper noun is formed with the -es ending, then add only -'.

- Ex. The Joneses ->The Joneses' house

Practice

In order to help the student understand how to identify and use possessive nouns, use the following exercise. Have the student complete the following questions with short answers using the correct possessive form.

- Ex. Whose coat ? (the doctor) the doctor's coat

1. Whose house? (Thomas) _____
2. Whose classroom? (Mr. Mathias) _____
3. Whose food? (the dogs) _____
4. Whose cars? (my neighbors) _____
5. Whose dresses? (the queen) _____

Practice

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- Ex. Whose coat ? (the doctor) the doctor's coat

1. Whose children? (Mr. Thomas) _____
2. Whose bedroom? (Jamila and Rashida) _____
3. Whose boats? (Thien and Hector) _____
4. Whose cars? (The Johnsons and the Jameses) _____
5. Whose homework? (my sister) _____