

# APOSTROPHES

## How and When To Use Them In Your Writing

### POSSESSIVE SINGULAR NOUNS

Add 's, even if the word ends in s!

Examples:

The professor's classroom is spacious.  
The **classroom** belongs to the **professor**.

The class's curriculum is straightforward.  
The **curriculum** belongs to the **class**. Even though "class" ends in **s**, we still add 's to make the singular noun possessive.



### POSSESSIVE PLURAL NOUNS

When the plural noun does not end in s:

All of the children's toys are in the living room.  
The **toys** belong to all of the **children**.

When the plural noun does end in s:

The countries' populations are all different.  
The **countries** are possessive of their own **populations**.  
Because "country" in its plural form "countries" ends in an **s**, we only add a single apostrophe after the word to make it possessive.



### ACRONYMS

Acronyms are treated as words when expressing them in the possessive and plural forms.

Possessive:

The CEO's job was at stake.  
The **job** belongs to the **CEO**. Adding 's to an acronym makes it possessive.

Plural:

The CEOs of both companies are highly-skilled individuals.  
We only add **s** to the end of **CEO** to make it plural.



### AVOIDING APOSTROPHE MISTAKES

Pay attention to whether a noun is already **plural**.

Decide if the noun should be **singular possessive** or **plural possessive**.

Remember that **acronyms** are treated as words while expressing them as **plural** or **possessive**!