

Writing Centre

Possessive Apostrophe

Possessive apostrophe is the use of an apostrophe to show ownership or a close relationship.

Sara's cat is fluffy and white.

The novel's plot is full of suspense.

Rules:

- 1. If the possessive noun is singular, add apostrophe -s.
 - e.g., cat's whiskers, dog's nose, Duncan's hat, James's car, boss's file
- 2. If the possessive noun does not end in -s, in its written form, add apostrophe -s. e.g., house's patio, bottle's lid, George's sister, children's books
- 3. If the possessive noun is plural and ends with an -s, just add an apostrophe. e.g., cats' food, computers' screens, students' books
- 4. If you have two nouns, the apostrophe -s is attached to the second noun if the ownership is shared. e.g., Faisal and Abdullah's teacher, Duncan and Saskia's house

Steps:

- 1. Find the possessive noun, and decide if it is singular or plural.
- 2. Decide if the word ends in an -s.
- 3. Add apostrophe or apostrophe -s.
 - 1. The <u>cat's</u> tail is long.

Possessive noun is cat, cat is the singular form, so add apostrophe-s as in RULE 1.

2. The <u>cats'</u> tails are long.

The possessive noun is still cat, but this time it is plural and would end in an -s, so add only an apostrophe as in RULE 3.