

Possessive Nouns

Count nouns are used in plural forms when:

- More than one item is mentioned (two books, several research studies)
- General statements are made (Our research has found that people are prone to biases.)

Possessive nouns are used to show that an object belongs to a person.

- This is my mother's dress. Whose dress is this? This dress is my mother's. (The dress belongs to my mother.)
- Professor Smith's study indicates ... (The study belongs to Professor Smith)

NOTE: The owner of an object stands before the object.

Forming Possessive

Types of nouns	To form possessive, add:	Examples
1. Noun without "s" at the end: singular noun (<i>child, dog, person</i>) or irregular plural noun (<i>children, men, women</i>)	's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My wife's coat; my sister's hat; the girl's book • My children's toys; two men's cell phones
2. Plural noun that ends in "s"	' (apostrophe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls' books; ladies' dresses; • Students' books; teachers' desks
3. Non-living objects (e.g., the dress, the table) or a noun phrase or adjective clause	Use "the ____ of the ____"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The front of the dress</u> is dirty. • <u>The legs of the table</u> need to be fixed. • She is <u>the mother of the girl who is in my class</u>.
4. A singular noun that ends in "s"	's or ' (depending on the style)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas' book or Thomas's book

Exercise 1

A) Fill in the appropriate words under each heading.

Singular	Singular Possessive: 's	Plural: s/new form	Plural Possessive: s'
a child	_____ toy	two _____	_____ toys
a lawyer	_____ office	two _____	_____ offices
my brother	_____ house	my three _____	_____ house
the man	_____ car	three _____	_____ cars
a researcher	_____ study	two _____	_____ studies
a person	_____ preference	several _____	several _____ preferences

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the possessive:

1. What is your friend's name?
2. Sarah found somebody's wallet in the park.
3. A drunk driver ran into my friend's car.
4. I look forward to the party at my friend's house.
5. Alcoholism has several devastating effects on people's lives.
6. The boys' bedroom has just been painted.
7. Parents can affect their children's character in significant ways.
8. Can you borrow your parents' car at the weekend?
9. Hurricanes damage people's property and can be dangerous to people's lives.

10. When I was twelve years old, I tried to drive my father's car for the first time.
11. Many parents want to contribute to their children's success.

Exercise 3. Do not confuse Plural (many items) and Possessive (when the second noun belongs to the first noun).

Some of the following sentences miss plural and possessive forms. Read them and correct errors.

1. My sister and her husband live in Fairfax.
2. My sister's husband works at the Honda dealership.
3. My brother and his wife own a Honda.
4. My brother's wife bought her Honda from my sister's husband.
5. Everyone has dreams, goals, and hopes.
6. Everyone's dreams, goals, and hopes are different.
7. My parents love me and they want me to achieve my goal and be happy.
8. I tried to convince my parents that I should change my major.
9. My parents' friend helped me convince them that I need to change my major.

Markers of Singular and Plural Noun Forms

Count Nouns		Non-Count Nouns
Singular	Plural	Only Singular
<p><i>One, each, every, another.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student, every day, one word, another person 	<p><i>Each of, one of, every one of, most of, three thirds of, 30 percent of, etc. + the or possessive pronoun (my, his, her, our, their, your) + plural noun</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each of my friends, one of the students, most of the students, two thirds of his relatives 	<p>One, each, every + another noun (measurement) + of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One <u>piece</u> of luggage Each <u>gallon</u> of milk Every <u>ounce</u> of gold
---	<p><i>All, some, most, a lot of, lots of, no, hardly any</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> most people, a lot of cell phones, lots of cars, no parents, hardly any students, some tomatoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a lot of homework, no money, hardly any milk, some cabbage
---	<p>A number (<i>two and higher</i>) and after <i>many, few, a few, a number of, a couple of, both, several</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two books, a number of computers, a couple of days, both assignments, several people I have <u>a few</u> friends. They are great. I have <u>few</u> friends. I often get lonely. 	<p><i>Plenty of, a great deal of, much, little, a little, an amount of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A (<i>large / small / certain</i>) amount of money, mail, furniture A great deal of courage; plenty of money How much money is there? I have <u>a little</u> money. I can buy lunch. I earn <u>little</u> money. I need to get another job.

Using Articles with Nouns

Count Nouns		Non-Count Nouns
Singular	Plural	Only singular
<p>Use “a/an” when a singular count noun is not specific (e.g., mentioned for the first time; any item of its group)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is <u>a large tree</u> in my yard. • I need to get <u>a new phone</u>. • <u>An apple</u> contains lots of vitamin C. 	<p>Don't use any article with non-specific plural nouns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>People</u> from different <u>countries</u> may have different <u>traditions and beliefs</u>. • <u>Cell phones</u> are very helpful <u>devices</u>. 	<p>Don't use any article with non-specific non-count nouns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pollution</u> is bad for people. • <u>Milk</u> comes from cows. • <u>Homework</u> is an important part of <u>education</u>.
<p>Use “the” with any common noun when it is specific and after “<i>same, first, second, third, etc.</i>”</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The girl</u> in <u>the red dress</u> is my best friend. • <u>The first reason</u>... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The cars</u> in this garage need to be cleaned. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The milk</u> in this frig is sour.

Exercise 1. Underline all nouns in these sentences. Highlight **noun markers**. Correct errors in the use of nouns or the words that show quantity:

1. I want to give a bonus for every employes in my company.
2. Another differences between these is two countries is the weather.
3. It's easy for people to find a jobs with a college degree.
4. A C college degree earned in my country has no value in other countriesy.
5. A Ttomato is a good source of vitamin C.

6. Last night I was worried about a test in my ESL class. This morning, I took the test, and it went well.
7. Every Most / All people want to be happy. OR Every person wants to be happy.
8. Smart phones is are a necessary tools in our daily life. OR A smart phone is a necessary tool...

Exercise 2. Underline all nouns in these sentences. Highlight **noun markers**. Correct errors in the use of nouns or the words that show quantity:

1. I choose accounting as my career because I like numberss.
2. With a higher salary, I will have more chancess to enjoy my life.
3. Car mechanicss are specialists that fix carss.
4. I am lucky because I have lived in two ~~country~~ countries on two different continentss.
5. I have two good friendss. Both of my friendss are NOVA studentss.
6. A ~~D~~ dream comes from imagination and many dreams can be made real.
7. A ~~G~~ goal is a target which we set to achieve some day.
8. The ~~F~~ first reason is that I want to be an IT officer is my interest in computerss.
9. Being a web-comic artist can be a challenge.
10. I have three dreamss to achieve.
11. Artificial intelligence devices think instead of humanss.
12. Bad bosses will create a terrible work environment for workerss.
13. One difference between the two ~~country~~ countries is family valuess.
14. In the U.S., there are many kinds of storess, such as convenience storess, thrift storess, and shopping mallss.

Exercise 3. Underline all nouns in these sentences. Highlight **noun markers**. Correct errors in the use of nouns or the words that show quantity:

1. In the United States, students have many different ~~opportunity~~opportunities to be able to study for free.
2. Paris and London are two of the most famous ~~city~~cities in Europe.
3. One of my most important dreams is having a family.
4. There are a lot of jobs for people with an IT major.
5. Each of the students in my class is a hard worker.
6. I hear that George Mason is one of the best ~~university~~universities in Virginia.
7. My income is low because I only work a few hours a week.
8. I have ~~a~~ few friends, so I often get lonely.
9. We learn a lot of lessons from experience.
10. My doctor is one of the best surgeons in the world.
11. Web comic artists earn a lot of money.
12. With money I can build schools and homes, and open businesses for the poor.
13. Enjoyment is one of the factors that everyone should think of when choosing a career.
14. One of the main causes of immigration is political.

Exercise 4. Underline all nouns in these sentences. Highlight **noun markers**. Correct errors in the following sentences:

1. I have too many-much homeworks for tomorrow.
2. There is not enough researches on this topic.
3. In American high schools, students get access to computer equipments.
4. There ~~were~~-was too many-much traffics on the highway last night.
5. There is little evidences to prove this theory.
6. I always keep track of the latest developments in ~~technologies~~ technology.
7. This classroom has ~~an~~-outdated equipment.
8. My parents gave me a lot of useful advices.
9. College students are required to pay for their own tuitions.
10. I have a lot of experiences in taking care of children.