

Rules for Forming Plural Nouns

To form the plural of nouns, follow the rules below.

1. Add *s* to most nouns.
girl/girls bicycle/bicycles printer/printers
2. Add *es* to nouns ending in *s*, *x*, *z*, *ch*, or *sh*.
class/classes ax/axes buzz/buzzes church/churches wish/wishes
3. For nouns ending in *y* preceded by a consonant, change *y* to *i* and add *es*.
fly/flies party/parties daisy/daisies
4. For nouns ending in *y* preceded by a vowel, add *s*.
monkey/monkeys valley/valleys
5. For nouns ending in *o* preceded by a consonant, add *es*.
hero/heroes potato/potatoes
6. For nouns ending in *o* preceded by a vowel, add *s*.
Oreo/Oreos radio/radios patio/patios
7. For musical terms ending in *o*, add *s*.
solo/solos alto/altos piano/pianos
8. For nouns ending in *f* or *fe*, usually change the *f* or *fe* to *ves*.
leaf/leaves shelf/shelves wolf/wolves
Exceptions: chief/chiefs chef/chefs safe/safes
9. Add *s* to the end of singular nouns ending in *ful*.
cupful/cupfuls spoonful/spoonfuls
10. Change the spelling of some words.
cactus/cacti mouse/mice goose/geese woman/women
11. Leave some nouns as they are.
sheep/sheep deer/deer fish/fish moose/moose
12. Add *s* to the most important noun in a hyphenated word.
editor-in-chief/editors-in-chief brother-in-law/brothers-in-law
13. Add *s* to proper nouns which do not end in *s*. Add *es* to proper nouns which do end in *s*.
Mr. and Mrs. Walker/the Walkers Mr. and Mrs. Ross/the Rosses

Animal Habitats

The following paragraphs have omitted most –s endings and ‘s endings. Correct the errors.

A kangaroo rat world is the burning hot desert where the air above the sand is so hot it wiggle. During the day, a kangaroo rat sleep in a cool, underground hole where it is safe from the terrible heat. But when the sun go down, the desert cool. Then the rat come out. It scamper about, looking for seed that blow across the desert. The rat doesn't look for water. Even if there were water, the kangaroo rat wouldn't drink it. This rat never drink. Its body is able to make the water it need out of just the dry seed the rat eat.

A walrus, on the other hand, live in a world of cold water and floating island of ice. A walrus swim to the edge of an ice island and stick his two, long front teeth, called tusk, into the ice. He pull himself right out of the water with his tusk. Then he lie on the ice in the sunshine, just as people lie on a sandy beach. Thick, tough skin with lots of thick fat underneath help keep the walrus warm.

Difference in each animal body help it stay alive in its world. A kangaroo rat has what it need to stay alive in a hot desert. A walrus has what it need to stay alive in its cold, icy world. Nature has perfectly equipped each animal, and each one has perfectly adapted to its habitat.

Possessives

Ownership is shown by using the possessive form of a noun. Follow the rules below when forming possessives.

Rule 1: When forming the possessive of any singular noun, add 's.

Example: a girl's dress

Chris's house

Note: Do not use an apostrophe with a possessive pronoun.

Example: its, hers, ours, yours, theirs

Rule 2: When forming the possessive of a plural noun, first make certain the plural form is spelled correctly. If the plural ends in *s*, add an apostrophe after the *s*. If the plural does not end in *s*, add 's.

Example: the boys' team

the children's playroom

Note: All plural rules can be accessed through Blackboard.

Singular	Singular Possessive	Plural	Plural Possessive
radio	radio's	radios	radios'
leaf	leaf's	leaves	leaves'
couch	couch's	couches	couches'
ox	ox's	oxen	oxen's
child	child's	children	children's

Exercise A: For each of the following, write the singular and plural possessive forms. The first one has been done for you.

	Singular Possessive	Plural Possessive
1. the foot of the ox	<u>the ox's foot</u>	<u>the oxen's feet</u>
2. the shoe of the woman	_____	_____
3. the wrapper of the candy	_____	_____
4. the cage of the monkey	_____	_____
5. the filling of the tooth	_____	_____
6. home of the son-in-law	_____	_____
7. the hem of the scarf	_____	_____
8. the label of the box	_____	_____

9. the track of the deer _____

10. the feathers of the goose _____

Exercise B: In each group of sentences below, choose the sentence which shows the correct use of the apostrophe. Remember that a word which shows no ownership does not need an apostrophe.

- _____ 1. A. It is her's.
B. It is hers.
C. Its hers.
- _____ 2. A. The boy's gym was locked.
B. The boys' gym was locked.
C. The boys gym was locked.
- _____ 3. A. That girl's car needs a muffler.
B. That girls' car needs a muffler.
C. That girls car needs a muffler.
- _____ 4. A. The daisies stem was broken.
B. The daisies' stem was broken.
C. The daisy's stem was broken.
- _____ 5. A. The milk of goat's is more healthful than the milk of cow's.
B. The milk of goats' is more healthful than the milk of cows'.
C. The milk of goats is more healthful than the milk of cows.
- _____ 6. A. The knives blades should be sharpened.
B. The knives' blades should be sharpened.
C. The knife's blades should be sharpened.
- _____ 7. A. The fishes water had become dirty and clouded.
B. The fishes' water had become dirty and clouded.
C. The fish's water had become dirty and clouded.
- _____ 8. A. The children's toys were scattered throughout the house.
B. The childrens' toys were scattered throughout the house.
C. The childrens toys' were scattered throughout the house.
- _____ 9. A. Mr. Baker's car is in the shop.
B. Mr. Bakers' car is in the shop.
C. Mr. Bakers car is in the shop.

- _____ 10. A. The Baker's house is next to ours.
 B. The Bakers' house is next to ours.
 C. The Bakers house is next to ours.
- _____ 11. A. That cities streets are full of potholes.
 B. That cities' streets are full of potholes.
 C. That city's streets are full of potholes.
- _____ 12. A. My family's problem was minor.
 B. My families' problem was minor.
 C. My families problem was minor.
- _____ 13. A. The howling of the wolves' sent chills down my spine.
 B. The howling of the wolves sent chills down my spine.
 C. The howling of the wolfs' sent chills down my spine.
- _____ 14. A. A womans' work is never done.
 B. A woman's work is never done.
 C. A women's work is never done.
- _____ 15. A. Soldiers' rations are not considered gourmet food.
 B. Soldiers rations are not considered gourmet food.
 C. Soldier's rations are not considered gourmet food.
- _____ 16. A. The house on the corner of Elm Street and Pine Street is theirs'.
 B. The house on the corner of Elm Street and Pine Street is theirs.
 C. The house on the corner of Elm Street and Pine Street is their's.
- _____ 17. A. That coat could be anybody's.
 B. That coat could be anybody's.
 C. That coat could be anybodies.
- _____ 18. A. The peoples' wishes were ignored.
 B. The peoples wishes' were ignored.
 C. The people's wishes were ignored.
- _____ 19. A. The studio's windows were large, and the room was light.
 B. The studios' windows were large, and the room was light.
 C. The studios windows were large, and the room was light.
- _____ 20. A. Several war heroes' were honored at the ceremony.
 B. Several war heroes were honored at the ceremony.
 C. Several war hero's were honored at the ceremony.

Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns show ownership; however, they do not require apostrophes. The pronouns *his, hers, its, ours, yours, theirs, and whose* are subject to this rule.

Contractions using pronouns do contain apostrophes. *You're (you are), they're (they are), we're (we are), it's (it is), and who's (who is)* are examples.

Examples: Whose coat is that?
 Who's standing outside the door.
 It's easy to see why he makes good grades.
 The bird built its nest in the tree outside my window.

Exercise: Correct each sentence below by crossing out the incorrect pronoun and writing the correct pronoun above it. Some sentences are correct.

1. Its been so cold this fall that the trees have already shed their leaves.
2. Is the responsibility their's or your's?
3. She is the actress who's chief claim to fame was a series of hair conditioner commercials.
4. The lady whose dog was lost had become hysterical.
5. The chair was in terrible condition; it's stuffing was coming out, and it had several cigarette burns.
6. The dress is her's, but the shoes are mine.
7. Who's at the door?
8. I hope their not planning to come to our house after the reunion.
9. It's getting late; I think its time for the children to put on their pajamas.
10. I think your in trouble for having too many absences in your English Comp I class.

Another rule for pronouns requires the use of possessive pronouns before a gerund (an *-ing* verb used as a noun).

Example: I was irritated by **his** singing in the shower. (Not "**him** singing")
 She approves of **our** working together. (Not "**us** working")

Correct the sentences below.

1. Him being the nephew of the boss didn't hurt his chances for the job.
2. She appreciated me tutoring her daughter.
3. The other candidate did not approve of me putting flyers in his dorm.