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

Acconyme are treated as words when everessing 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!

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