Apostrophe Tip Sheet

To make something possessive, add 's for the following:

- the singular form of a noun (even if it ends in s). Example – dog’s, James’s, business’s

- the plural form of a noun that does not end in s. Example – children’s

- the end of a compound noun. Example – brother-in-law’s

- joint possession. Example – Mom and Dad’s money

  - The apostrophe after just the second name means the money belongs to both Mom and Dad. However, if they are not together, it would be:

    Example – Mom’s money and Dad’s money.

  add ’ for the following:

- plural nouns that end in s. Example – countries’ laws

Remember: Acronyms are treated the exact same way as words when making them possessive or plural.

Example – “The CEOs of both companies worked together to achieve a goal.”

This example uses the proper plural form of an acronym.

Example – “The CEO’s money was held in multiple bank accounts.”

The possessive is formed with the same 's as any other word.