



4

Nouns: Possessive

THINK



Match these people with their belongings and complete the sentences.

1. The  stethoscope belongs to the doctor.
2. The  pan belongs to the chef.
3. The  hammer belongs to the carpenter.



Now, identify the groups of words that are common in all these sentences. What do you think these words hint at?

The words **belongs to** show **ownership** in these sentences.

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Possessive Nouns

When a noun shows ownership, it is called a **possessive noun**. We use the **apostrophe (')** to express possession by nouns.

Look at these examples.

- the stethoscope belonging to the doctor: the doctor's stethoscope
- the pan belonging to the chef; the chef's pan
- the hammer belonging to the carpenter: the carpenter's hammer

PRACTISE

A. Look at the pictures of these children and their belongings.



Gaurav



Tiya



Adil



Tanya



Harsh

Now, answer these questions.

1. Whose football is this?
2. Whose painting is this?
3. Whose book is this?
4. Whose pet is this?
5. Whose drum is this?

This is Gaurav's football.

This is Tiya's painting.
This is Adil's book.
This is Tanya's pet.
This is Harsh's drum.

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Possessive Nouns: Exceptions

We do not use the apostrophe to show that non-living things possess anything. Generally, the word **of** is used instead of an apostrophe.

- the blades **of** the fan
- the legs **of** the chair

However, possessives of periods of time and organisations can be formed using an apostrophe.

- an hour's work (**period of time**)
- the company's rules (**organisation**)

PRACTISE

B. Tick (✓) the correct possessives and put a cross (X) against the others.

1. the needle's eye
3. the girl's teeth



2. Jane's eyes



4. the teeth of the comb



5. the baby's hands

7. the neck of the bottle



6. the clock's hands



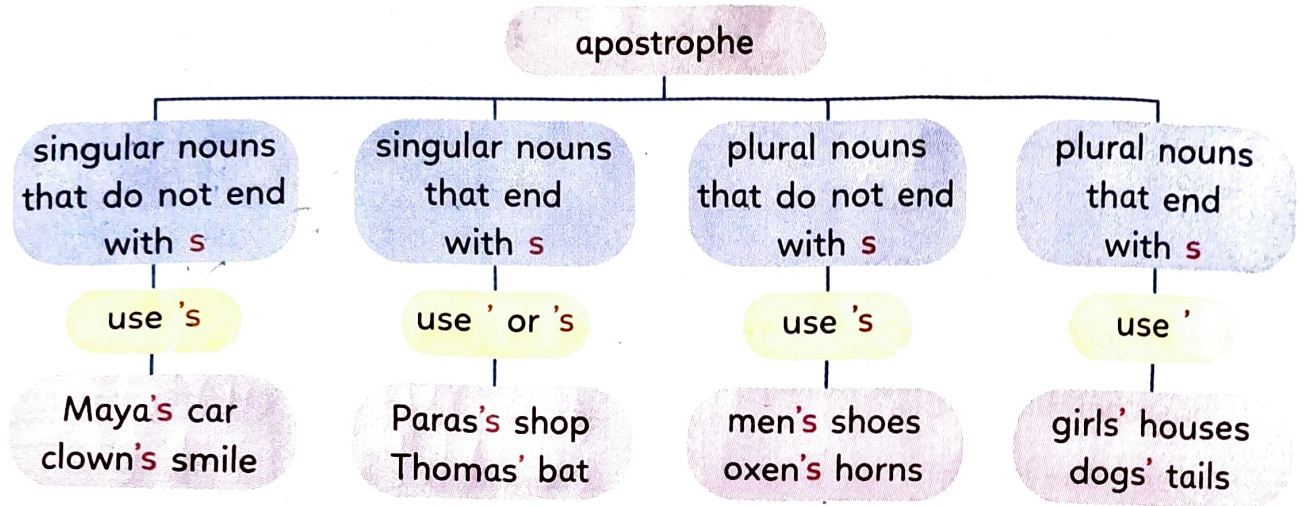
8. the swan's neck



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Use of Apostrophe

Remember these rules for the use of the **apostrophe** to show possession.



C. Rewrite these sentences using possessive nouns for the text in colour.



1. We travelled in the **car belonging to the boys**.

We travelled in the **boys' car**.

2. The guitarist plays in the **park for children**.

The guitarist plays in the **children's park**.

3. Geetika entered the **clothing section for women**.

Geetika entered the **women's clothing section**.

4. The cat drank up the **milk for the babies**.

The cat drank up the **babies' milk**.

5. Alicia stayed at the **house of her cousins**.

Alicia stayed at her **cousins' house**.

6. Praful learned swimming in the **swimming pool of his uncle**.

Praful learned swimming in his **uncle's swimming pool**.