

Possessive Apostrophes

Use an apostrophe to form a possessive noun.

To form a possessive noun, look at the last letter of the word. If the word ends in <s>, add an apostrophe. If the word ends in any other letter, add <'s>.

1.) For singular nouns that end in any letter except <s>, add <'s>.

child ~ child's
neighbor ~ neighbor's
ox ~ ox's
parent ~ parent's
Max ~ Max's
woman ~ woman's

2.) For plural nouns that end in any letter except <s>, add <'s>.

children ~ children's
men ~ men's
mice ~ mice's
oxen ~ oxen's
teeth ~ teeth's
women ~ women's

3.) For singular nouns that end in <s>, add <'>. (Some style guides also add <'s> on all singular nouns including singular nouns that end in <s>.)

actress ~ actress' ~ actress's
boss ~ boss' ~ boss's
James ~ James' ~ James's
Luis ~ Luis' ~ Luis's
princess ~ princess' ~ princess's
walrus ~ walrus' ~ walrus's

4.) For plural nouns that end in <s>, add <'s>.

actors ~ actors'
Americans ~ Americans'
babies ~ babies'
boys ~ boys'
teachers ~ teachers'
workers ~ workers'

