

The Apostrophe 2 (connections) ☆☆☆

(☆☆ = Basic ☆☆☆ = Intermediate ☆☆☆☆ = Advanced)

Grammar Bite

(read through this)

Apostrophes have two uses only: **contraction** and **connection**. Today we look at connection.

Connection (possession)

"Possession" is the word many people use. It's often all right (*Susan's hair, Mike's shoes*) but it's not always right, and it's better to call it "connection".

Mostly we use 's:



This is Caroline's car.

She "possesses" the car; it's in her name.



Alex is Ellie's brother.

Does she "possess" him? No, but they are connected.

Mostly, but not always:

Regular plurals take ' only:

Boys – **a boys' school**

Nick Shepherd - **Nick Shepherd's house**

The Shepherds – **The Shepherds' house**

Irregular plurals take 's:

Men – **a men's club**

Women – **The Women's Institute**

People – **the people's will**

Children – **The children's rooms**

Names ending in -s take 's:

Dickens – **Dickens's novels**

James – **St James's Street**

Worksheet

(do this)

Fill the blank with either 's or the apostrophe only ('):

- 1 Freddie is Alex___ little brother.
- 2 St Martin___ church is in Praed Street.
- 3 Jimmy goes to a boys___ school.
- 4 Where is the ladies___ toilet, please?
- 5 It's over there, next to the gentlemen___ toilet.
- 6 "The people___ voice must be heard!"
- 7 Where did you leave the boys___ bikes?
- 8 There's a beautiful children___ playground near our house.
- 9 He lives on St James___ Street.
- 10 A plumber___ tools are vital to him.
- 11 He joined a boys___ club recently.
- 12 That woman___ dress is torn.
- 13 She is chair of the Women___ Institute.
- 14 I like Peter Wilson___ new office.
- 15 I went to see the Wilsons___ new house.

Note

For using 's with animals, human institutions, countries and more, see GB 62 (advanced)

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