

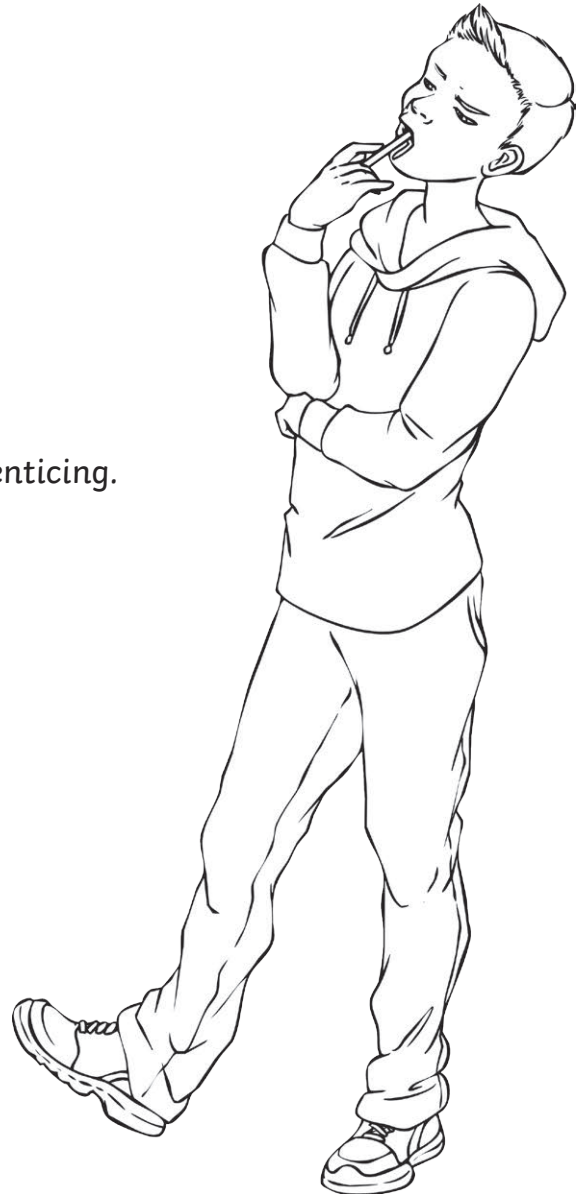
Plural or Possessive?

Part A

Nouns are naming words. In most cases when talking about more than one (plural) nouns, we add an -s as a suffix. For example, cups, dogs or trees. We also add an -s to show possession of a singular noun but we need to add an apostrophe to indicate this. For example, the cup's handle, the dog's lead or the tree's branches.

For the sentences below, can you indicate whether the addition of the -s indicates whether it is plural or possessive?

1. The dogs were running quickly.
2. The trees were swaying gently in the breeze.
3. The table's left leg was buckled.
4. Arriving late, my uncles were out of breath.
5. I had to clean up my cat's messy pawprints.
6. Surprisingly, the little boy's toy was not broken.
7. The raindrops landed noisily on the tin roof.
8. My hat's bobble had fallen off.
9. The glow from the lights inside seemed warm and enticing.
10. The rocking horse's tail was matted.



Plural or Possessive?

Part B

For the nouns below, write a sentence using -s to indicate plural and a sentence to indicate possession.

e.g. Football

- The footballs were stacked precariously.
- The football's pump had vanished.

1. Hedgehog
2. Chair
3. Television
4. Pumpkin
5. Chicken
6. Picture

★ Challenge Task ★

Can you investigate what happens to the noun when it ends in an -s already?

Plural or Possessive? Answers

Part A

1. The dogs were running quickly.
 - *plural*
2. The trees were swaying gently in the breeze.
 - *plural*
3. The table's left leg was buckled.
 - *possessive*
4. Arriving late, my uncles were out of breath.
 - *plural*
5. I had to clean up my cat's messy pawprints.
 - *possessive*
6. Surprisingly, the little boy's toy was not broken.
 - *possessive*
7. The rain drops landed noisily on the tin roof.
 - *plural*
8. My hat's bobble had fallen off.
 - *possessive*
9. The glow from the lights inside seemed warm and enticing.
 - *plural*
10. The rocking horse's tail was matted.
 - *possessive*

Part B

★ Challenge Task ★

Can you investigate what happens to the noun when it ends in an -s already?

When a noun already ends in an s it is slightly different to indicate possession. The apostrophe is placed after the s. A general rule to follow is that if when saying the word you would pronounce the added -s (e.g Mr Jones's jumper) then you add the s. If you wouldn't pronounce it (e.g Mrs Williams' desk) then you don't add an -s.