POSSESSIVE ’S

Do you know how to use **possessive ’s**? Test what you know with some exercises and read the explanation to help you.

Look at these examples to see how we use **possessive ’s**.

- Mohammed is my brother**’s** son.
- My grandpa**’s** beard is white.
- This is my grandparents**’** house.

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Grammar test 1

Type **’s**, **s’** or **s** to fill the gaps.

1. Uncle David is my dad_____brother.

2. Martina_____hair is brown.

3. Those are my two colleague_____desks.

4. These are Natasha’s shoe_____.

5. Sara’s parent_____house is in Sydney. They live near the beach.

6. Can you give me Aiden_____phone number, please?

7. We have tickets for the men_____final of the tennis competition.

8. That’s Mathias_____sister. Her name is Emilia.

Read the explanation to learn more.

We can use possessive **’s** to talk about the relationship between people or to say who owns something. Possessive **’s** always comes after a noun or a name.

We often use possessive **’s** or **s’** (’) when we talk about family and friends.

- Grandma and Grandpa are my mum**’s** parents.
- Maria**’s** best friend is Juanita.
- My cousins**’** birthdays are both in January.

We can also use it to say that something belongs to someone.

- That’s Roberto**’s** flat. He’s got a flat in the city centre.
- Kim**’s** hair is very long. She’s got long, black hair.
- My parents**’** garden is beautiful. They grow a lot of flowers.

When it is one person who owns something, we usually use **’s**.

- Our friend**’s** car is red. She loves it.
- Simon**’s** phone is new. He bought it yesterday.
- Can you see Amira**’s** keys? She can’t find them.

It is possible to use more than one possessive in a phrase.

- We had lunch at my friend**’s** father**’s** house.

If a name or noun ends in **s**, we can add either **’** or **’s**. The pronunciation can be **/zɪz/** or **/sɪz/**.

- Is that James**’** bag?
- That’s my boss**’s** office.

If the thing belongs to more than one person, we usually add **’** after the **s** of the **plural noun**.

- Our friends**’** house is in the mountains. They moved there last year.
- My grandparents**’** dog is called Bertie.
- The twins**’** school is closed today.

If the **plural noun** is **irregular** and doesn’t end in **s**, we add **’s**.

- This is our children**’s** school.
- The women**’s** clothes are on the second floor.
- A lot of people**’s** eyes are brown.

If something belongs to more than one person, and we give a list of names, the **’s** comes after the last name in the list.

- Liam is Anne and Gary**’s** son.

Remember that **s** at the end of a word without an apostrophe (**’**) can make it plural, but this doesn’t show possession.

- I’ve got two brother**s**.
- Are those your key**s**?

Do this exercise to test your grammar again.

Grammar test 2

Type **’s**, **s’** or **s** to fill the gaps.

1. Fatema is Ahmad_____cousin.

2. Our friend_____flat is very big. They have five bedrooms!

3. We’ve got two dog_____. One is black and the other one is brown.

4. Bruno_____eyes are blue.

5. That’s Julia and Miguel_____house.

6. My grandparent_____car is really old. They bought it years ago!

7. That's Mrs. Jones_____classroom. She's our English teacher.

8. I really enjoy watching women_____football.

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ANSWERS

Grammar test 1

Type **'s**, **s'** or **s** to fill the gaps.

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2. Martina**'s** hair is brown.
3. Those are my two colleague**s'** desks.
4. These are Natasha's shoe**s**.
5. Sara's parent**s'** house is in Sydney. They live near the beach.
6. Can you give me Aiden**'s** phone number, please?
7. We have tickets for the men**'s** final of the tennis competition.
8. That's Mathias**'** sister. Her name is Emilia.

Grammar test 2

Type **'s**, **s'** or **s** to fill the gaps.

1. Fatema is Ahmad**'s** cousin.
2. Our friend**s'** flat is very big. They have five bedrooms!
3. We've got two dog**s**. One is black and the other one is brown.
4. Bruno**'s** eyes are blue.
5. That's Julia and Miguel**'s** house.
6. My grandparent**s'** car is really old. They bought it years ago!
7. That's Mrs. Jones**'** classroom. She's our English teacher.
8. I really enjoy watching women**'s** football.