

Name

POSSESSIVES AND PLURALS

PLURALS

Plurals are made when you add an “s” or an “es” to the end of a word; when you change “y” to “i” and add “es”; or when you change the word completely. A plural of a noun just means that there are more than one of something. For example:

house/ houses: There is a pink house on my street. There are two pink houses on his street.

boy/ boys: I only date one boy. Ellen dates five boys.

princess/ princesses: There is one princess in her country. There aren't any princesses here.

potato/ potatoes: I have one potato in my garden. He has two potatoes.

For words ending in “y” you generally drop the “y” and add “ies”: pony/ponies; fairy/fairies

Of course, there are always exceptions to rules, and you never know about some...

child/children

alumnus/alumni

piano/pianos

woman/women

fish/fish

hero/heroes

goose/geese

sheep/sheep

thesis/theses

hippopotamus/

crisis/crises

hippopotamuses

For names, whatever the ending, add either “s” or “es”:

Ms. Eliot is very nice. All of the Eliots are nice, too.

I like Elsa Cruz. All of the Cruzes are nice.

I like Mr. Williams. All of the Williamses are cool!

I wonder if all the Sassos are as weird as my teacher!

How many Lucys and Chrises (or, better, *people named Chris*) are in the class?

Note: If The Plural Spelling Looks Or Sounds Too Weird Avoid It!

For example: *The members of the Cruz family; Everyone in the Williams family.*

Note, an exception!

Use of 's for A's and 100's and CD's is OK to make plurals in words that are acronyms and symbols. **Also:** Don't mistake contractions for possessives: it's/its, who's/whose, they're/their. (Note: *there's* and *there're* are lowly.) Make sure you include the ' in contractions such as *won't*, *can't*, and *let's*.

Third person singular verbs in the present tense (lets, shows, stinks, allows) never get an apostrophe.

POSSESSIVES

Possessives are made when you want to show that something belongs to someone. They are made when you add 's to the word, or an apostrophe after the plural form of the word.

One boy: The boy's shoelace was untied. (The shoelace is his.)

Two boys: The boys' baseball team lost today. (The team is theirs.)

One princess: The princess's crown was tarnished. (It was hers.)

Two princesses: The princesses' mother was the Queen. (Their mother.)

One pony: The pony's tail was nicely braided.

Two ponies: All five ponies' tails were braided.

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Possessive Forms of People's Names: Follow the same pattern as for possessive plural nouns.

Mr. Smith's mail was lost. (Just his was lost.)
The Smiths' mail was lost. (All of theirs was lost.)

Possessive Forms for Words That Are Already Plurals: Such as *people, men, children, women, and mice*. These are made into possessives by adding 's.

The dog ate the mice's food. (The dog ate their food.)
The dog ate the children's food.
The dog ate the men's food.
The dog ate the people's food.

Possessive Form for Singular Nouns That End in S:

If a *singular* noun already ends in "s" you *can* make it possessive by adding *just* an apostrophe! It depends on if you want to pronounce the s or not:

James' baseball bat was broken. *James's* baseball bat was broken.
The *boss's* daughter ruined the business. The *boss'* daughter was married last night.
Sally Jones's cat ran away. *Sally Jones'* cat is named Miffy.

Note: Conventional use of s' for Moses', Jesus', Zeus', and Socrates'

EXAMPLES: Circle the correct word in the parentheses. (What is the singular of *parentheses*?)

- 1) The sixteen (elephant's, elephants') weight broke the bus.
- 2) Two thousand of my two (boys', boy's) socks were found under the bed.
- 3) The (childrens, children's) room in the library was closed.
- 4) The (women's, womens) room is always crowded!
- 5) The (mens, men's) room is never crowded.
- 6) There were sixteen (mice, mice's) under the blankets with Mary Lou.
- 7) I would give anything to my (boys, boys').
- 8) You should see all the (princesses, princess's) in the kingdom!
- 9) The (Eliots', Eliots) sent out Christmas cards with a picture of their dog!
- 10) The (Eliots, Eliots') dog ate (everyones, everyone's) food.
- 11) Janet (Eliots, Eliot's) aunt is very ugly.
- 12) How many of the (peoples, people) are coming today?
- 13) That school belongs to everyone! It is the (peoples, people's) school!
- 14) Where are all the (bears, bears') in the woods?
- 15) Did anyone see that ugly (bear's, bears') teeth?
- 16) In the museum we saw a (dinosaurs, dinosaur's) egg.
- 17) There are two princes. The (princes', prince's) uncle will come to the ball.
- 18) They wanted to know if the (Ford's, Fords) would come, too.
- 19) You should bring all your (acorn's, acorns) back to the squirrels.
- 20) The (cats, cats') hate it when I don't clean their litter box.
- 21) That (cats', cat's) litter-box feet are not allowed on my bed!
- 22) Look at all the (apple's, apples) on sale!
- 23) People believe that you should obey (Moses', Moses's) Laws!
- 24) Beware of (Zeus', Zeus's) thunderbolt!
- 25) Where did the (Rodriguez', Rodriguezes', Rodriguez family's) mail go?

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Possessives, Plurals, and Pronouns: More Exercises

- 1) Has anyone (saw, seen) (Brian's, Brians') baseball glove?
- 2) Which Dianelly? There are seven Dianellies, Dianellys,, girls named Melany) on this team!
- 3) The (Williamses, Williams family) (is, are) having a party at their house! (Lets, Let's) go!
- 4) Everyone knows that (Delianys's, Delianys'') pens are hidden inside her umbrella.
- 5) Hey! Those (pens', pens) are (mine, mines)! They are no one (else's, elses).
- 6) Javier wanted to know where the (mices, mice's) home was in your house!
- 7) Mahkai spent his day painting the (childrens, children's) room.
- 8) The (aardvarks, aardvark's) who live with Kelly don't eat the (cats, cat's) food.
- 9) Did anyone see (Jameres, Jamere's) game today? He hit five (solos, soloes) in the fifth inning! His heart (sank, sunk) when he missed the sixth after he (swang, swung) the bat hard.
- 10) Keybein knows the (sheeps', sheep's) name. He also knows all the (moose's, mooses') names. Eddie wondered if he had (given, gave) their names to the ranger.
- 11) I would bet that Angel knows his (friends', friend's) zodiac signs.
- 12) Wilson had planted (potatoes, potatos) and (zucchini, zucchini)* in all his (friends', friend's) (yards, yard's) and they were happy to have (ate, eaten) them after the harvest.
- 13) Angelisel has (gone, went) on a quest to find the lost (princesses, princesses') palace.
- 14) Keziya and Adrianna both (are Williamses, are Williams's, have the last name Williams).
- 15) They both have (strove, striven) to do their best.
- 16) He was a man (that, who, whom) everyone pitied.
- 17) Has anyone (saw, seen) (Corey's, Coreys') biology notebook?
- 18) Angelise had (ran, run) back to the lunch room to look for it, after everyone had (ate, eaten) lunch.
- 19) John believes in (mens, men's) rights. Jeanine believes in (women's, womens) rights.
Raniyah believes in (people's, peoples') rights. Tianna wondered, "What about (moose's, mooses') rights?"
(They're, Their) passing new laws to protect (everyone's, everyones) rights.
- 20) Amy sent invitations for (the Rodriguezes, the Rodriguez family's) party. She has (went, gone) to five parties this year. She has (sang, sung) at all five. Another card was from the (Perezes, Perez family).
- 21) Rodrigo knows there are many different kinds of (trees, tree's) in the world.
- 22) Lamar saw a sign at the nursery that said, "(apples, apple's) for sale."
- 23) Zamir sent a Christmas card that said, "Greetings from the (Edwardses, Edwards family). The (Edwards', Edwards family's) home is beautiful at Christmas!
- 24) Mike knew the (boss's, bosses) son.
- 25) Ty knows that (he'll, he will) always get (As, A's) in maths. ☺

**zucchina* is the singular and *zucchine* is the plural in Italian. Nowhere except in America is there a zucchini. :0