

Adapted from: Elementary Language Practice by Michael Vince

Explanations

Possessive apostrophe

We use an apostrophe when we talk about things belonging to people. Singular ('s)

This is Jane's house. That's my friend's bike.

Plurals (s')

These are the boys' desks.

Two words with apostrophes together

Is that Ann's aunt's car? = Is this the car that belongs to the aunt of Ann?

Belonging to two people

This is Carol and Tony's house.

Names ending in s.

St James' Park or *St James's Park*

- No apostrophe in front of the s of plural words.
- No apostrophe in possessive pronouns: *yours, hers, its, ours, theirs.*

of

We can use *of* when we talk about things belonging to things.

The roof of the house was damaged.

of is not always necessary

I saw this dress in the shop window.

of is often used for formal names

The University of Westminster

own and belong

I own this bike. Do you own this bike?

This bike belongs to me. Does this bike belong to you?

Careful!

Many people make mistakes with the apostrophe-including English speakers!