

## Using an apostrophe to show possession



**'Possession'** means belonging to someone or something.  
When we have or own something, we say we possess it.

We can show that someone or something possesses something by adding an **apostrophe (')** and an **s** to their name.

The cat that belongs to Bella is Bella's cat

Sunil's dog is the dog that Sunil owns.

The blanket that the cat sleeps under is the cat's blanket.

The dog's collar is the collar that the dog wears.

The pattern on the blanket is the blanket's pattern.

When we are showing possession, the apostrophe and the s always come after the person or thing's name.

Matt's fish **CORRECT**

Mat'ts fish **NOT CORRECT**

Matts' fish **NOT CORRECT**

The apostrophe always goes high up between the name and the s, not down on the line like a comma.

Matt's fish **CORRECT**

Matt,s fish **NOT CORRECT**

**Remember!** Words that are just plurals (when we have more than one of something), like **dogs, cats, blankets or collars**, end in an s but do not need an apostrophe because the sentence is not about possession, e.g. Three dogs ran down the street.

## Possessive Apostrophes

### 1. Add a **possessive apostrophe** in the right place in these sentences:

Sunils dog runs through the park at night with the other dogs.

Night time is when Matts fish turn into wild sharks.

Everybody loves the childrens pets.

### 2. Say whether these sentences are **right** or **wrong** depending on whether the **apostrophe + s** has been used correctly or not.

Jim's puppy is three months old.

It is walk time for Ruths dogs.

Alic'es cat is black and white.

Tom,s hamster is ENORMOUS!

It is bathtime for Eva's terrapin, Horace.

Callies guinea pigs are very cute.

With the ones that you have marked **WRONG**, rewrite the sentence so that it is correct.

## Answers

### 1. Add a **possessive apostrophe** in the right place in these sentences:

Sunil's dog runs through the park at night with the other dogs.

Nighttime is when Matt's fish turn into wild sharks.

Everybody loves the children's pets.

### 2. Mark these sentences **right** or **wrong** depending on whether the **apostrophe + s** has been used correctly or not.

Jim's puppy is three months old. *Right!*

It is walk time for Ruths dogs. *Wrong! Ruth's*

Alic'es cat is black and white. *Wrong! Alice's*

Tom,s hamster is ENORMOUS! *Wrong! Tom's*

It is bathtime for Eva's terrapin, Horace. *Right!*

Callies guinea pigs are cute. *Wrong! Callie's*