06 Using apostrophes

In English, you can use apostrophes (') to show belonging. You can use them to show who owns something, such as a pet, and to talk about your family.

⚙ **New language** Possessive apostrophe
Aa Vocabulary Family and pets
🧩 **New skill** Talking about belonging

6.1 KEY LANGUAGE APOSTROPHE WITH "S"

Add an apostrophe and the letter "s" to the end of a singular noun to show that what comes after the noun belongs to it.

This form is correct in English, but it is not normally used.

the mother of Lizzie

↓

Lizzie's mother

This is a common way of talking about belonging.

An apostrophe with an "s" shows ownership.

6.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES APOSTROPHE WITH "S"

Dave's grandmother

The dog's ball

Tess's dog

This can also be written Tess'.

Juan and Beth's parrot

If something belongs to more than one noun, only add "-'s" to the last one.

6.3 REWRITE THE PHRASES USING AN APOSTROPHE PLUS "S"

The daughter of Kevin = *Kevin's daughter*

1. The son of Ben = _____
2. The cat of Sam and Ayshah = _____
3. The house of Debbie = _____
4. The car of Marco and Kate = _____
5. The grandchild of Elsa = _____
6. The parrot of Beth = _____

6.4 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MATCH THE PAIRS

Edith is → Ben's mother.

1. Lucas is → Ben's grandmother.
2. Lily is — Ben's son.
3. Noah is — Ben's sister.
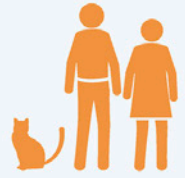4. Grace is — Ben's brother.
5. Alex is — Ben's father.

6.5 KEY LANGUAGE APOSTROPHES AND PLURAL NOUNS

To show belonging with a plural noun, just add an apostrophe with no "s."

Ginger is my parents' cat.

Plural nouns use an apostrophe with no "s."

6.6 FURTHER EXAMPLES APOSTROPHES AND PLURAL NOUNS

This is my cousins' rabbit.

That is his grandparents' house.

Rex is her brothers' dog.

Polly is our children's parrot.

For plural nouns that don't end "s," you should still add "-'s."

6.7 REWRITE PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

| uncle. | Kevin | Sharon's | is |

Kevin is Sharon's uncle.

1. | Skanda's | is | wife. | Angela |

_____

2. | snake. | is | my cousins' | That |

_____

3. | Sue | aunt. | Ella and Mark's | is |

_____

4. | is | John's | cat. | Ginger |

_____

6.8 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD, FILLING IN THE GAPS

Edith is ___*Ben's*___ (Ben) grandmother.

1. Kathy is _____ (Dave) aunt.

2. Rex is _____ (Noah and Pat) dog.

3. This is _____ (her cousins) house.

4. Felix is _____ (the children) cat.