



POSSESSIVE CASE

Help your *brother's* boat across, and *your* own will reach the shore.

2. with **of** for inanimate things

- **of** + inanimate thing or abstract noun
e.g. the wheels **of** the car, the price **of** fame
- **a/the/this/that + noun + of + possessive**
e.g. She's **a** colleague **of** mine. **That** friend **of** Pamela's is a doctor.

Note: When we refer to a certain place or time, the possessive case is formed as follows:

- **phrase of place (shop/home/business, etc.) + 's**
e.g. at the **chemist's** (we mean the shop),
at **Susan's** (house)
- **phrase showing length of time/specific moment or event + 's/'**
e.g. a **year's** savings/two **hours'** drive/**today's** news
- We can use either **'s** or **of** when we talk about places or organisations.
e.g. Rome's population **OR** the population **of** Rome

The possessive case can be used to talk about ownership or the relationship between people. It is formed in two ways:

1. with **'s/** for people or animals

- singular nouns + **'s** e.g. Bob's dog
- plural nouns ending in -s + **'** e.g. my parents' car
- plural nouns not ending in -s + **'s** e.g. the men's department
- compound nouns + **'s** e.g. my sister-in-law's family
- We use **'s** after the last of two or more names to show common possession.
e.g. Jackie and George's camera. (The camera belongs to both of them.)
- We use **'s** after each name to show individual possession. e.g. Peter's and Mike's cameras. (Each boy has his own camera.)

when we are talking about time, as in:

- **next year's** holiday prices (*rather than* the holiday prices of next year)
- **last night's** TV programmes (*rather than* the TV programmes of last night)
- Notice that we can say: • We had **two weeks'** holiday in Spain, *or* We had **a two-week** holiday.

Exercise 1

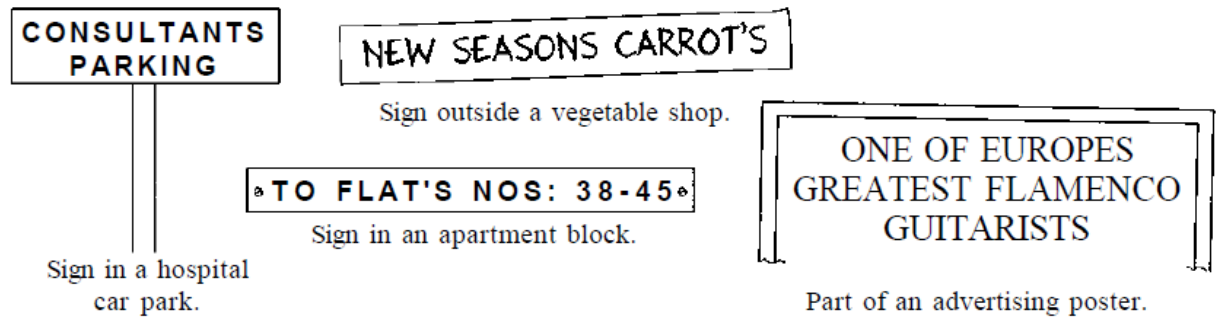
Choose the correct answer

- 1) _____ computers have been stolen. A) Tonys' b) Tony's
- 2) When the teacher had called out the _____ names, they all stepped forward.
A) girls`s b) girl`s c) girls`

- 3) We had to study Charles _____ early novels at school. A) Dicken's b) Dickens'
- 4) I went to the _____ to buy a paper. A) newsagents b) newsagents's
c) newsagent's
- 5) There were _____ nests in the trees. A) hundreds of bird's b) hundreds of birds'
- 6) They're my _____ favorite sweets. A) mother's-in-law b) mother-in-law's
- 7) I took the books to _____ house yesterday. A) Lewis' b) Lewis's
- 8) If there had been anyone _____ paintings I wouldn't have gone to the exhibition. A) else's b) else
- 9) She was a friend of my _____. a) mothers' b) mother
- 10) The _____ are moving towards a total ban on smoking. A) worlds airline's
b) world's airlines
- 11) The _____ letters page in the newspaper is full of complaints about the article. A) readers b) readers'
- 12) At the supermarket, I found I'd brought _____ a) the shopping list of last week b) last week's shopping list.
- 13) That isn't much use, it's the _____ a) calendar of last year b) last year's calendar.
- 14) I was shocked by _____ a) the opinion of Alice b) Alice's opinion.
- 15) _____ took only 10 minutes. a) The evacuation of the building b) The building's evacuation

Exercise 2

Look at the signs and correct them



Exercise 3

Define if the sentences are correct or incorrect

1. Steve has two brothers. Mother said Steve is not allowed to take his brothers toys without asking. A) correct b) incorrect
2. The womens' national football team won a great victory on Saturday. A) correct b) incorrect
3. The zoo keeper did his round and put food in all the animals' cages. A) correct b) incorrect
4. The first day of the summer holidays is the school children`s favorite day of the year. A) correct b) incorrect
5. Hannah has lots of friends. Two of them have their birthday on the same day. Hannah is buying a dress for her friends joint birthday party. A) correct b) incorrect

Exercise 4

Put the words into the correct order

1. friends'/ are/ These / our/ cats.
2. Let's/ Giovanni's/ lunch /meet /at / for.
3. shower / ladies'/ Where/ is/ the ?
4. grandparents / old/ an / people's / Our / live / in /home.
5. That/ everyone's/ to / would/ be /sandwich /not / taste.

Exercise 5

Put the nouns into possessive case

- 1) (Mr and Mrs Jarvis, carrots) are from their garden.
- 2) You've scorched (Billy, clothes)!
- 3) (his dog, tail) was badly hurt in the accident.
- 4) (the boys and the girls, rooms) are downstairs.
- 5) (my brother and my sister, sense of humour) is fascinating.
- 6) These are (Mr and Mrs White, hammocks).
- 7) (last year, carnival) was a roaring success.
- 8) (yesterday, competition) was put off because of the weather.
- 9) This is (the country, most recent discovery).