



“S” ENDINGS ON WORDS

“S” Endings are used to indicate any of these:

- a plural noun (Two **cats** meow.)
- a singular verb (One cat **meows**.)
- ownership/possession (You are the **cat’s** meow)
- a contraction (**There’s** more inside!)

Plural Nouns:

To make a noun plural, you add an **s** to the end of the word:

- How many **jars** of **olives** did they buy?
- **Girls**, please ride your **bicycles** to the post office and mail these **letters**.
- Rag doll **cats** are relaxed and cuddly, and love to chase their **toys**.

Exception: noun that ends in **consonant + y**

Drop the **y** and add “**ie**” + “**s**” to the end of the word:

- Baby – **babies**
- Sky – **skies**
- Family – **families**

Exception: noun that ends in vowel + **o**, just add “**s**”

- Studio – **studios**
- Radio – **radios**

Exception: noun that ends in **consonant + o**, add “**e**” + “**s**”

- Echo – **echoes**
- Hero – **heroes**
- Mosquito - **mosquitoes**

Exception: plural nouns that don’t end in “**s**”

- In New Zealand, there are more **sheep** than **people**.
- The wildlife in the wetlands includes **mice**, **geese**, and **moose**.
- Over here, the population is 43% **men** and 57% **women**.

Singular Verbs:

Singular verbs typically follow a 3rd-person singular noun. (Replacing the noun with the pronouns *he*, *she*, or *it* changes the noun to 3rd-person singular.)

- We run once a week, but he **runs** every day.
- She **buys** a new car every year. The new car **looks** very sporty.

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Ownership or Possession (Noun or Adjective):

To show that one thing possesses or owns another, you usually add an **apostrophe** and an “**s**” to the first noun in the sentence.

- The **girl’s** mother was upset. She saw that **today’s** weather would be cold.
- Are they going to change the **school’s** name?
- Study **Darwin’s** theory. We will cover it in **tomorrow’s** discussion.

Exceptions: points of confusion

Its = the possessive form of the pronoun **it**:

- The cat unsheathed **its** claws.

Hers, his, ours, and theirs = **possessive adjectives**:

- The black cats are **hers**.
- The white cat is **his**.
- The grey cat is **ours**.
- The spotted cat is **theirs**.

Neither the possessive form of **it** nor a **possessive adjective** requires an apostrophe.

versus

In the case of the possessive form of **it** and a **possessive adjective**, no apostrophe is needed.

Exceptions: plural possessive nouns

What if a plural noun also owns or possesses something?

- The **homeowners’** association meets on the first Tuesday of every month.
- It used to be a **boys’** club, but now they are accepting girls.
- The **strikers’** demands were given to the business owner.

Contractions:

To make a contraction out of a noun and the word *is*, put an apostrophe between the noun and an “s” (the “s” replaces the word *is* or *has*)

- That **cat is** driving me crazy!
turns into
- That **cat’s** driving me crazy!

- The **cat has** caught a bird.
turns into
- The **cat’s** caught a bird.

To Review:

Four types of words have an “s” ending:

- plural nouns (Two **cats** meow.)
- 3rd person singular verbs (One cat **meows**.)
- to show ownership or possession (You are the **cat’s** meow)
- a contraction of the noun + *is* or *has* (**There’s** more inside!)

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Contributors: D.Spelke, J. Gastineau