Name _____ Date _____

More than one, or belonging?

An s on the end can mean "more than one", or that something belongs.

1 Learn



Lots of words end in **s**. Sometimes the s just means **more than one**. Sometimes it shows that something **belongs** to someone, and then it needs an **apostrophe** (’).



three apples

plural: more than one

no apostrophe



the dog’s ball

possessive: it belongs

the ball belongs to the dog

Worked example: The cats slept on Mia’s bed.

1. **Find** the words that end in s: **cats** and **Mia’s**.
2. Ask: **does something belong?** *cats* just means more than one cat. Nothing belongs to them here, so it's a **plural**: no apostrophe.
3. *Mia’s*: the bed belongs to Mia. It's **possessive**, so it has an apostrophe before the s.

Flip’s tip: if you can say "the bed **belonging to** Mia", it needs an apostrophe. A word that only means more than one **never** needs one.

Warm up: ring **more than one** or **belongs**.

two hats more than one belongs **Leo’s hat** more than one belongs

Grown-ups: point to the apostrophe in "the dog’s ball" and ask "Who does the ball belong to?" Nothing belongs to the apples, so there is no apostrophe.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



S-word hunt

You need: a storybook, a comic, a food packet or some post with writing on it, and a pencil.

1. Hunt through the writing for **5 words that end in s**.
2. Read the whole sentence each word is in.
3. Ask: does the s mean **more than one**, or does something **belong**? Look for an apostrophe.
4. Write each word in the table and tick a box. Say how you know.

Word I found	More than one	Belongs	How I know

Grown-ups: some words just happen to end in s, like *bus*, *is* or *was*. Skip those, or chat about why they're neither. If you spot an apostrophe, ask "What belongs, and who to?"

3 Practise

A. Is the <u>underlined</u> word **plural** (more than one) or **possessive** (belongs)? Tick one box.

Sentence	Plural	Possessive
1. The **<u>frogs</u>** jumped into the pond.		
2. **<u>Sam's</u>** kite is stuck in a tree.		
3. My **<u>gran's</u>** garden is full of roses.		
4. We baked twelve **<u>biscuits</u>**.		
5. The **<u>teacher's</u>** desk is very tidy.		

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Scan to play this chapter in the game

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B. Draw a ring round the right word.

1. The **(girls / girl's)** went to the park.
2. **(Leo's / Leos)** bike is red.
3. I picked some **(flower's / flowers)**.
4. The **(horse's / horses)** tail swished.
5. We fed the **(duck's / ducks)** on the lake.
6. **(Ava's / Avas)** coat is on the peg.

C. Fix the signs. Write each sign correctly. If a sign is already right, tick it.

Apple's 50p	Fresh egg's	Toms Café	Carrots 40p
_____	_____	_____	_____

D. Write two sentences about your home. Use a **plural** in the first and a **possessive** in the second. Underline the s word.

Plural:

Possessive:

Challenge

Mia wrote: **"My brother's are both taller than me."** Is she right? What should she write, and why?

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ tell when an s just means more than one
- ☐ tell when an s shows that something belongs to someone
- ☐ leave the apostrophe off plain plurals like apples