

2 News

Sharpen your skills: Apostrophes of possession

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Read this sentence:

The girl's socks were blue.

The apostrophe plus the 's' mean the girl owns the socks. 'Girl' is the **owner word**. When it shows that something belongs to someone, the apostrophe goes at the end of the **owner word**, before the 's'.

Owner + ' + s thing = the thing belongs to its owner

Write down three more examples using apostrophes to show belonging or possession. Start with this one:

The dog's tail.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Things get slightly more complicated when the word is plural – it ends in an 's'. Remember:

- The apostrophe goes at the end of the **owner word**
- You don't need to add an 's' if the word already ends in an 's'

So if you were writing about lots of tails belonging to lots of dogs, you would write: The dogs' tails.

Now read this:

A boy fell out of a tree. Unfortunately he landed on his friend. I thought that both the boy's arms were broken. It was worse than I thought. Both the boys' arms were broken.

Find the two apostrophes in these sentences. Then explain what happened.