**Introduction to Plurals and Possessives**

SAT Cheat Sheet

- Ask: Is the noun possessive or plural?
  - If it shows ownership, it needs an apostrophe.
  - Plural nouns that don't end in "s" → add 's
- Nouns that end in "s" → check if it's singular or plural

Rules of using an apostrophe

1. Add an apostrophe + s to **singular nouns**
   - The girl's dress (one girl)
   - The bus's door (even if it ends in "s")
2. Add an apostrophe + s **to irregular plural nouns**
   - The children's books
   - The men's room
3. Add only an apostrophe to **plural nouns ending in "s"**
   - The students' desks (more than one student)
   - The teachers' lounge
4. Do not confuse possessives with contractions
   - It's = it is; **Its** = shows possession
   - They're = they are; **Their** = shows possession
   - You're = you are; **Your** = shows possession

Nouns that do not end in 's'

| **Meaning** | **Example** |
|---|---|
| Singular noun | student |
| Plural noun | students |
| One student owns | student's book |
| Many students own | students' books |
| Irregular plural noun | children |
| Children own | children's toys |

Nouns that do end in 's' (a person called James)

| **Meaning** | **Example** |
|---|---|
| Singular noun ending in s | James |
| One James owns | James's book |
| Many Jameses | Jameses |
| Many Jameses own | Jameses' books |

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