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# POSSESSIVE V. PLURAL

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In English, possessive and plural nouns both have an 's' placed at the end of the word. However, possessive nouns also require an apostrophe. If the noun is singular, but possessive, the noun requires an apostrophe before the 's.' If the noun is plural and possessive, the apostrophe comes after.

## **Plural:**

Nouns are plural when they represent more than one item. To show that a noun is plural, an 's' is added to the end of the word:

- My friend has two dogs.

In the sentence above, the 's' after dog shows that there is more than one dog being discussed.

## **Possessive:**

Nouns are possessive when they have some form of ownership over another noun. To show that a noun is possessive, an apostrophe and an 's' are added to the end of the word.

- My friend's dogs are both Golden Retrievers.

In the sentence above, the apostrophe and 's' added to the word "friend" indicate that "friend" is a possessive noun. The friend owns, or possesses the dogs. Notice that, by contrast, "dogs" is still plural, but because there is no apostrophe, the dogs don't own anything.

## **Plural and Possessive:**

Sometimes, nouns can be both plural and possessive. In situations like this, the apostrophe that is used to indicate a possessive noun comes after the 's' that makes the noun plural.

- My friends' dogs are all Golden Retrievers.

Because the apostrophe comes after the 's' in the word "friend," we know that the noun is both plural and possessive. Essentially, the sentence is saying that I have more than one friend who owns Golden Retrievers. Here is another example:

- All of the cars' bumpers were damaged in the accident.

"Car" in the sentence above is both plural and possessive. Not only is there more than one car, but all of the cars in question have ownership over their respective bumpers.