

THE POSSESSIVE FORM OF NOUNS

I. USAGE - The possessive form is used with nouns referring to people, groups of people, countries, and animals. It expresses:

A. OWNERSHIP

John owns a car. ('John' is the *possessor* or *owner*)
It is **John's** car.

America has some gold. ('America' is the *owner*)
They are **America's** gold.

B. WHERE SOMEONE WORKS, STUDIES, OR SPENDS TIME

John goes to this school. This is **John's** school.
John sleeps in this room. This is **John's** room.

C. A FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

John's mother
The Queen's daughter

D. QUALITIES

John's patience.
The politician's dishonesty.

II. **FORM** - To form the possessive:

A. add **'s** (apostrophe -s) to the noun

B. If the noun is plural, or already ends in **-s**, just add: **'**
(an apostrophe)