

## Possessive nouns ('of', 's' or 's')

The *English* language shows possession in two ways:

**of**  
**'s or s'**

**Exercise 1:** Change these sentences that use 'of' to ones that use apostrophes. The first sentence has been done to show you how.

1. The dog chased the van of the postman. *The dog chased the postman's van.*
2. I do not like the new haircut of Mum.
3. The behaviour of the teenagers was very strange indeed.
4. The party of the children was very noisy.
5. The buggies of the babies were cluttering up the library.
6. Will I ever understand the theories of Albert Einstein?

*Latin* shows possession by changing the end of the noun:

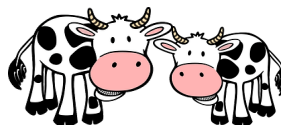
'a' noun endings	one (singular)	more than one (plural)	'us' noun endings	one (singular)	more than one (plural)
subject	a	ae	subject	us	i
object	am	as	object	um	os
possessive	ae	arum	possessive	i	orum

**Exercise 2:** Using a line, match the Latin possessive noun to its correct English translation.

<b>magae</b>	of the horse
<b>reginarum</b>	of the pigs
<b>equorum</b>	of the witch
<b>porci</b>	of the crowns
<b>coronae</b>	of the queens
<b>coronarum</b>	of the horses
<b>equi</b>	of the pig
<b>porcorum</b>	of the crown

**Exercise 3:** Read the phrases below to decide who possesses each object, the queen (regina), the doctor (medicus), the cows (vaccae) or the wizards (magi). Then draw the object next to its owner. One has been done to show you how.

corona reginae ~~campus vaccarum~~ aqua medici gladius magorum  
 villa medici stellae vaccarum digiti reginae equus magorum



**Exercise 4 (extension):** Translate these sentences 'build-ups', all of which contain a possessive noun, from Latin into English. You can use an apostrophe or the word 'of', it doesn't matter which. Remember always to translate the verb first to see what's happening, when it's happening and who's doing it. The first sentence has been done to show you how.

1. amo I love.  
 coronam amo I love the crown.  
 coronam reginae amo I love the queen's crown.

2. vident  
 porci vident  
 porci equos vident  
 porci equos reginae vident

3. habitabamus  
 in villā habitabamus  
 in villā magorum habitabamus

4. numerabat  
 medicus numerabat  
 medicus digitos numerabat  
 medicus digitos feminarum numerabat