

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

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.

magae		of the horse
reginarum		of the pigs
equorum		of the witch
porci		of the crowns
coronae		of the queens
coronarum		of the horses
equi		of the pig
porcorum		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	<i>They see.</i>
porci vident	<i>The pigs see.</i>
porci equos vident	<i>The pigs see the horses.</i>
porci equos reginae vident	<i>The pigs see the queen's horses.</i>
3. habitabamus	<i>We were living.</i>
in villā habitabamus	<i>We were living in the house.</i>
in villā magorum habitabamus	<i>We were living in the wizards' house.</i>
4. numerabat	<i>He/she was counting.</i>
medicus numerabat	<i>The doctor was counting.</i>
medicus digitos numerabat	<i>The doctor was counting the fingers.</i>
medicus digitos feminarum numerabat	<i>The doctor was counting the women's fingers.</i>