Possessives

A possessive uses an apostrophe to show ownership or possession of an someone or something.

Form a possessive if the phrase can be turned around and made into an “of the…” phrase. For example:

\[
\text{flower’s stem = stem of the flower} \\
\text{car’s windshield = windshield of the car}
\]

Refer to the following rules when forming a possessive:

1. Add ‘s after singular possessive nouns and indefinite pronouns.

   - Hilda’s car
   - the city’s industries
   - everybody’s books
   - John’s problem

2. Add ‘ after plural possessive nouns that end in s.

   - farmers’ crops
   - the Joneses’ relatives
   - critics’ reviews
   - the Smiths’ travels

3. Add ‘s to plural possessive nouns that do not end in s.

   - the children’s toys
   - the women’s club
   - men’s room

4. Add ‘s after singular possessive nouns that end in s.

   - Kansas’s schools
   - Francis’s promotion
   - the bus’s light
   - Tennessee Williams’s plays

5. With compound noun possessives, add ‘s to the second possessive noun to show joint ownership.

   - Jimmy and Susie’s house  (they both own the same house)

6. With compound noun possessives, add ‘s to both possessive nouns to show individual ownership.

   - Erin’s and Janet’s bikes  (they own different bikes)