

Plural versus Possessive Nouns

When referring to more than one of something, as in more than one book or more than one class, we usually add “-s” (books) or “-es” (classes).

When we want to show that something belongs to or is part of something or someone else, we add ‘s for singular nouns (the book’s cover) and ‘ for plural nouns (the students’ test scores). Because plural and possessive nouns sound very similar, writers often confuse the two, writing plural nouns when they really want to show possession and vice versa. Here are some examples to help you determine when you should use the plural or possessive form of a noun.

INCORRECT	CORRECTED
The professors demeanor	The professor’s demeanor
The films critics	The film’s critics
Walt Disneys films	Walt Disney’s films
The students argument	The student's argument
Our cultural study’s program	Our cultural studies program
The two cars' in the parking lot	The two cars in the parking lot
All Facebook users profile information	All Facebook users’ profile information
The crowd's gathered outside the stadium	The crowds gathered outside the stadium