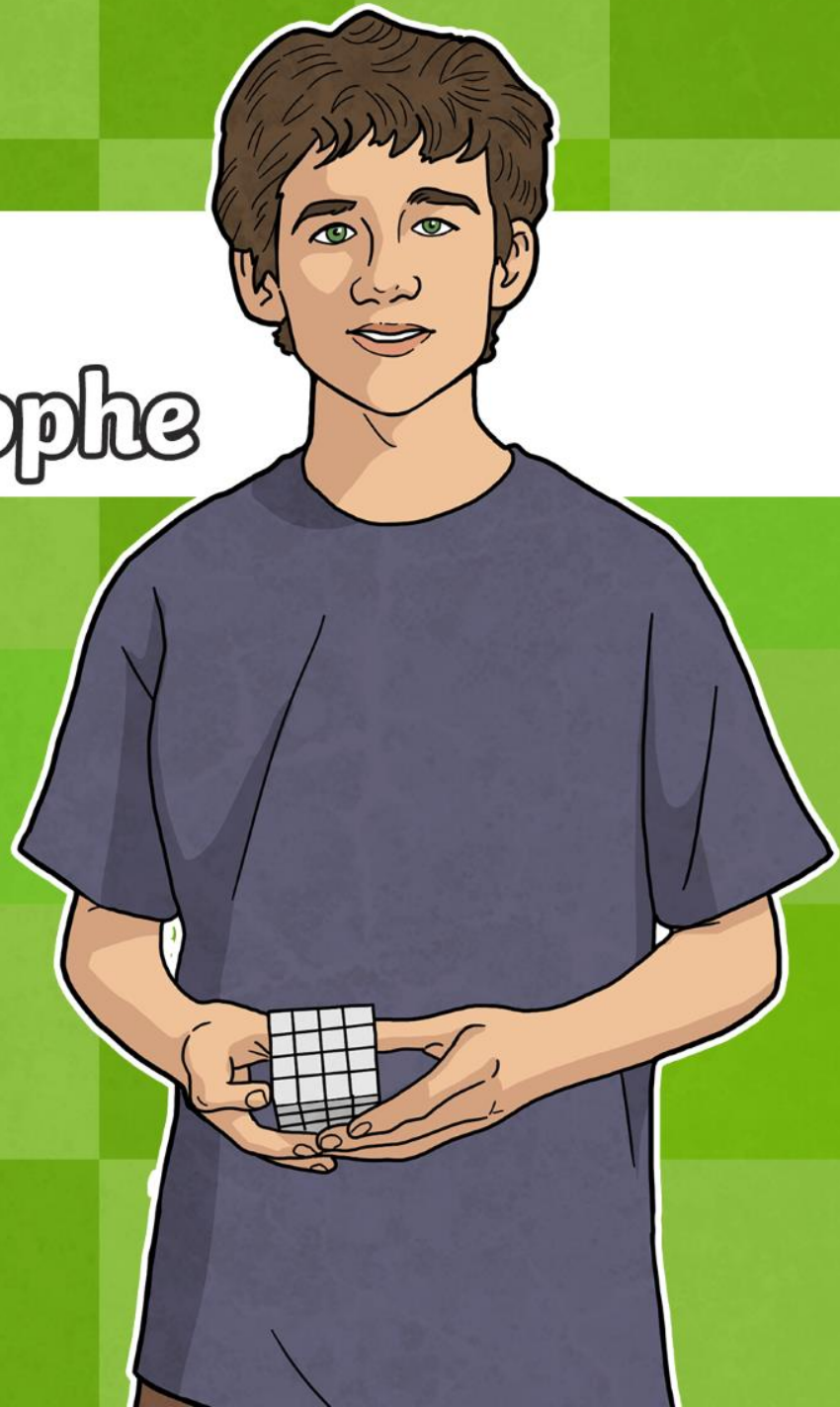


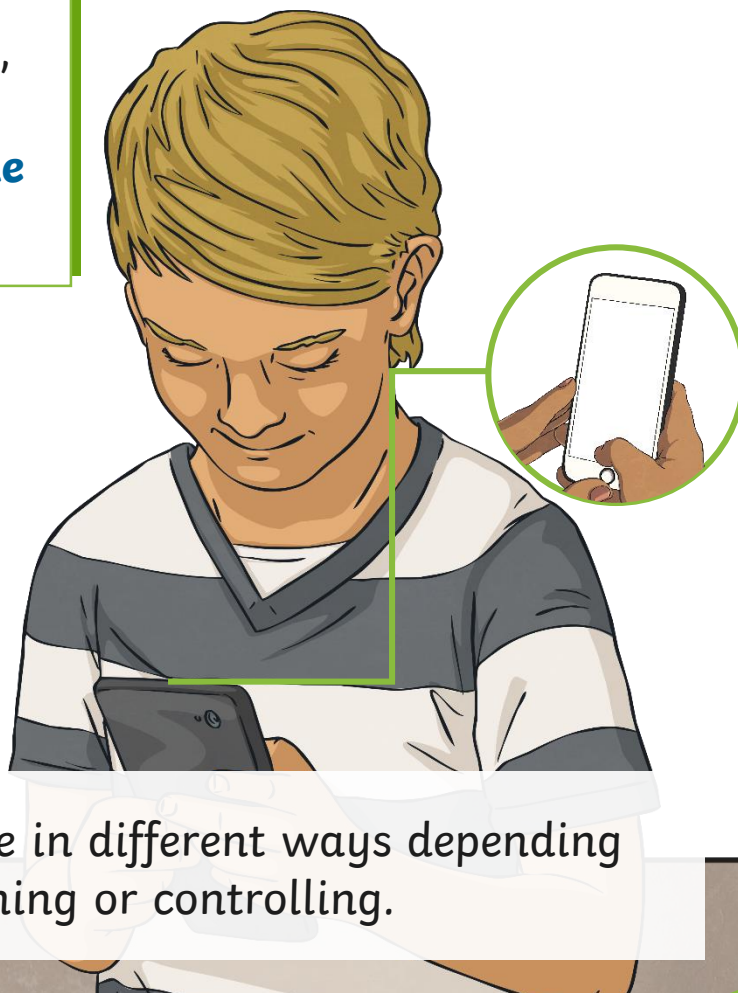
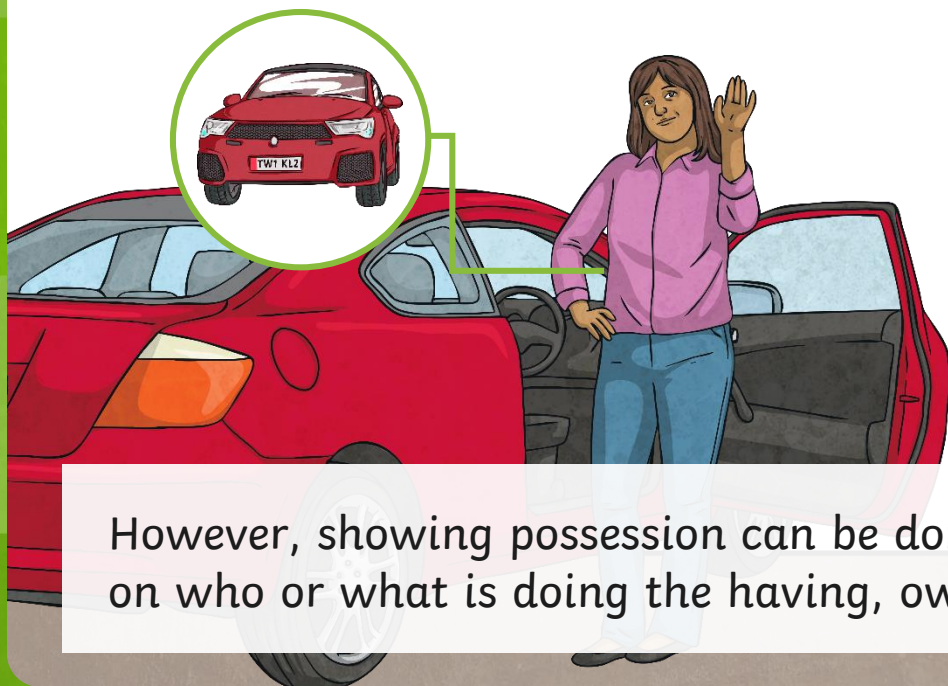
# Using the Possessive Apostrophe



# What Is Possession?

Possession means that you **have**, **own** or **control** something.

If you want to show that someone has, owns or controls something when you are writing, you can use an **apostrophe** and, often, **the letter s**.



However, showing possession can be done in different ways depending on who or what is doing the having, owning or controlling.

# Singular Possession

**Singular** possession means that **only one** person, animal or thing **has, owns** or **controls** something.

For example, if one girl owns a bike, it is **the girl's bike**.

**the car's door**

The door belongs to one car.

**an apple's pips**

The pips belong to one apple.

**Maya's backpack**

The backpack belongs only to Maya.

To show that something belongs to a singular noun, we usually add...

**an apostrophe**



**followed by the letter 's'**



# Ending in an S

Sometimes, the singular nouns that **have, own** or **control** something are already words that end with the letter s.

To show that something belongs to a singular noun that already ends with an s, you should usually add...

**an apostrophe**



**followed by another 's'**



the class's teacher

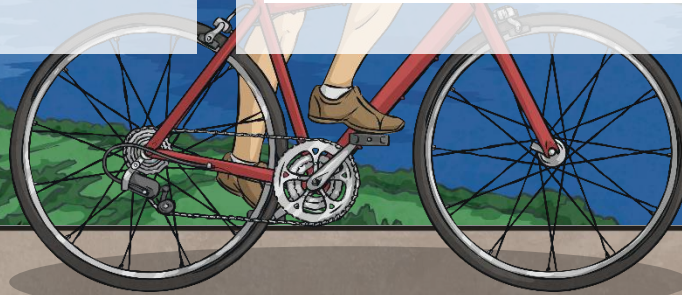
The teacher belongs to one class.

the princess's dress

The dress belongs to one princess.

James's clothes

The clothes belong only to James.



# Ending in an S: Exceptions

Sometimes, people choose not to use the extra s after the apostrophe to show possession.

This can be the case if the word is old or traditional, e.g.



Jesus'  
miracles

This can be the case if the word would sound unusual if you added an extra s, e.g.



Andres'  
uniform

This can be the case if it is a specific place who do not use the extra s in their own name, e.g.



St Thomas'  
Hospital



# Plural Possession

**Plural** possession means that **more than one** person, animal or thing **has, owns** or **controls** something.

For example, if two boys own one bike between them, it is **the boys' bike**.

**the cars' lights**

The lights belong to multiple cars.

**two apples' juice**

The juice belongs to both of the apples.

**some teachers' lessons**

The lessons belong to multiple teachers.

To show that something belongs to a plural noun, we usually add...

**an apostrophe**



**after the s that is already there**

