

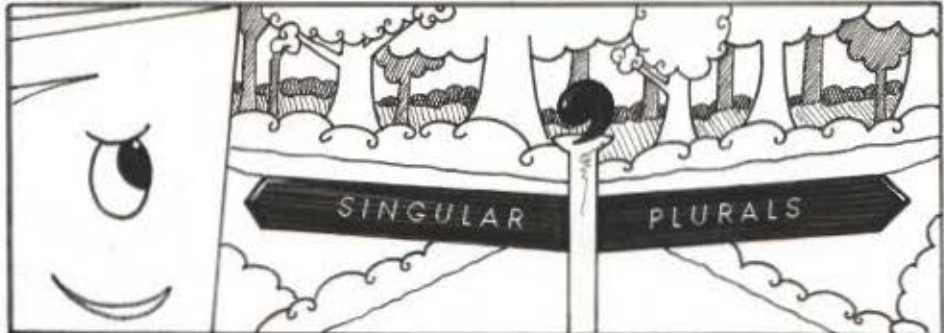
the
**SMART ALEX
FEATURE**



- to -
possessives

with Smart Alex!

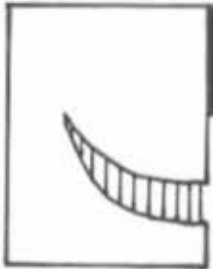
Subject: Possessives
Created by: Allen Jang
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One of the **many** pitfalls in grammar is **possession**. Often, possessive forms make use of the **apostrophe** and the "s" **suffix**... but is it different between **singular and plural** possession? **How** are they formed? **Where** is the apostrophe? If you find yourself lost in the thick of things, don't **panic** just yet...

The **singular possessive form** has a single subject with the apostrophe **before** the suffix (e.g. "dog's toys").

The **plural possessive form** has a plural subject with the apostrophe **after** the suffix (e.g. "dogs' toys").



Is there just one owner of this object?

YES: The apostrophe goes before the "s"!

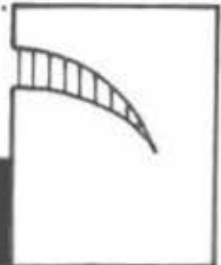
NO: Move down and ask...

WHOSE " ' " IS IT ANYWAY?

Move up and reconsider... : **NO**

The apostrophe goes after the "s"! : **YES**

Is there more than one owner of this object?



but there is also
THE SCARIEST POSSESSIVE IN THE WORLD
...



...that turns out to be a **contraction!** In fact, "**its**" is the **possessive form**, not "it's". How can we tell? Well, we might consider the apostrophe as the **dot** above an invisible "i"...

(apostrophe)
IT'S
(the letter)
"It", like other pronouns*, **doesn't** have an apostrophe in its **possessive form!** If there **is** an apostrophe, **it's** always a **contraction**.

Knowing the **difference** between **ITS & IT'S** is more than just a party trick*, however: knowing the **correct possessive form** goes a long way toward making **your** essay presentable!
*You'll be a riot at English Department parties...or you will end up inciting one.

*The exceptions being "y'all" and "oac", which do have apostrophes in their possessive forms, but you will never use at least one of these pronouns in an actual essay.



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