

Punctuation – To Apostrophe or Not

(last name grammar rules)

Plural – used as a noun & refers to 2 or more people

Add -s

Example – The Johnsons moved in July. The Nelsons are going to the concert tonight.

Add -es (if the name ends in ch, cs, x, or z)

Example – The Hesses have a new baby. Three searches revealed no results.

Plural Possessive – Used as adjective to show ownership and refers to 2 or more people

Add -s'

Example – The Adams' new pool is great for parties. The Dowds' enjoyed the visit.

Add -es' (if the name ends in ch, s, x, or z)

Example – The Robertses' dog is loose. The Mendezes' car won't start.

Singular – Used as a noun and refers to 1 person

Do not add anything

Example – Ben Jackson went to the gym. Mrs. Jones baked a cake.

Singular Possessive – Used as an adjective to show ownership and refers to 1 person

Add -'s

Example – Jack's garage door was left open. Jason's lawn needs mowing.

Add -' or add 's if the name ends in s

Example – James' softball game is tomorrow. The Ross's vacation starts today.