

-'s (the girl's name) and of . . . (the name of the book)

A

We normally use **-'s** for people or animals (Karen's . . . / the horse's . . . , etc.):

Karen's eyes the manager's office the horse's tail Mr. Evans's daughter

- Where is the manager's office? (*not* the office of the manager)
- What color are Karen's eyes? (*not* the eyes of Karen)
- What is Karen's brother's name?

Note that you can use **-'s** without a noun after it:

- This isn't my book. It's my brother's. (= my brother's book)

We do not always use **-'s** for people. For example, we would use **of . . .** in this sentence:

- What is the name of the man who lent us the money? ("the man who lent us the money" is too long to be followed by **-'s**)

Note that we say a **woman's hat** (= a hat for a woman), a **boy's name** (= a name for a boy), a **bird's egg** (= an egg laid by a bird), etc.

B

For things, ideas, etc., we normally use **of (. . . of the book / . . . of the cafe, etc.)**:

the door of the garage (*not* the garage's door) the name of the book the owner of the cafe

Sometimes you can use the structure **noun + noun** (see Unit 77):

the garage door the cafe owner

We normally use **of** with **the beginning / the end / the top / the bottom / the front / the back, etc.**:

the beginning of the month the back of the car (*not* the car back)

C

You can usually use either **-'s** or **of . . .** for an organization (= a group of people). So you can say:

the government's decision *or* the decision of the government
the company's success *or* the success of the company

It is also possible to use **-'s** for places. So you can say:

the city's new theater the world's population Brazil's largest city

D

After a **singular** noun we use **-'s**:

my sister's room (= her room – one sister) Mr. Carter's house

After a **plural** noun (**sisters/friends, etc.**) we put **'** (an *apostrophe*) after the **s**:

my sisters' room (= their room – two or more sisters)
the Carters' house (Mr. and Mrs. Carter)

If a plural noun does not end in **-s** (for example, **men/women/children/people**), we use **-'s**:

the men's changing room a children's book (= a book for children)

Note that you can use **-'s** after more than one noun:

Jack and Jill's wedding Mr. and Mrs. Carter's house

E

You can also use **-'s** with time expressions (**yesterday / next week, etc.**):

- Do you still have yesterday's newspaper?
- Next week's meeting has been canceled.

In the same way, you can say **today's / tomorrow's / this evening's / Monday's, etc.**

We also use **-'s** (or **-s'** with plural words) with periods of time:

- I have a week's vacation starting on Monday.
- Sally needs eight hours' sleep a night.
- Brenda got to work 15 minutes late but lost an hour's pay.

Exercises

78.1 In some of these sentences, it would be more natural to use -'s or -'. Change the underlined parts where necessary.

1. Who is the owner of this restuarant? OK
2. Where are the children of Chris? Chris's children
3. Is this the umbrella of your friend? _____
4. Write your name at the top of the page. _____
5. I've never met the daughter of Charles. _____
6. Have you met the son of Mary and Dan? _____
7. We don't know the cause of the problem. _____
8. Do we still have the newspaper of yesterday? _____
9. What's the name of this street? _____
10. What is the cost of a new computer? _____
11. The friends of your children are here. _____
12. The garden of our neighbors is very nice. _____
13. I work on the ground floor of the building. _____
14. The hair of Bill is very long. _____
15. I couldn't go to the party of Catherine. _____
16. Today is the birthday of my father. _____
17. Have you seen the car of the parents of Mike? _____
18. We went to the wedding of the best friend of Helen. _____

78.2 What is another way of saying these things? Use -'s.

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. a hat for a woman <u>a woman's hat</u> | 4. a school for girls _____ |
| 2. a name for a boy _____ | 5. a nest for a bird _____ |
| 3. clothes for children _____ | 6. a magazine for women _____ |

78.3 Read each sentence and write a new sentence beginning with the underlined words.

1. The meeting tomorrow has been canceled.
Tomorrow's meeting has been canceled.
2. The storm last week caused a lot of damage.
Last _____.
3. The only movie theater in town has closed down.
The _____.
4. Exports from Japan to the United States have fallen recently.
_____.
5. Tourism is the main industry in the region.
_____.

78.4 Read the situation and complete the sentences. Use the word in parentheses.

1. I bought groceries at the supermarket last night. They will last us for a week.
I bought a week's groceries at the supermarket last night. (groceries)
2. Kim got a new car. It cost the same as her salary for a year.
Kim's new car cost her _____ . (salary)
3. Jim lost his job. His company gave him extra money equal to his pay for four weeks.
Jim got _____ when he lost his job. (pay)
4. I haven't been able to rest all day. I haven't rested for even a minute.
I haven't had _____ all day. (rest)
5. I went to bed at midnight and woke up at 5 A.M.
I only had _____ last night. (sleep)