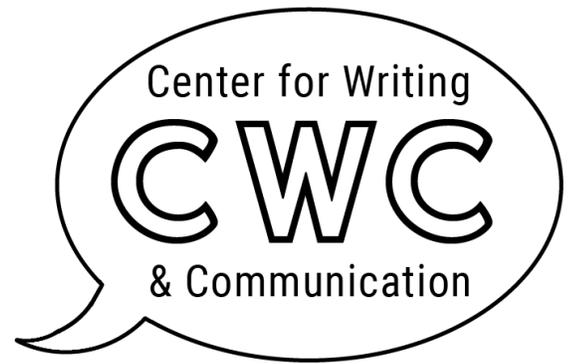


Possessive Forms



Possession:

Basic Rule: Add an 's to everything that demands ownership.

Exception: To plural nouns ending in s, just add the apostrophe.

So, now you know that possession can be simple. The question now is knowing how to use the apostrophe.

Question: Are there two nouns next to each other? If the answer is yes, you need to make the first noun own the second.

Do: my mother's boat
the university's programs
the men's restroom

Don't Do: my mothers' boat
the universities programs
The mens's restroom

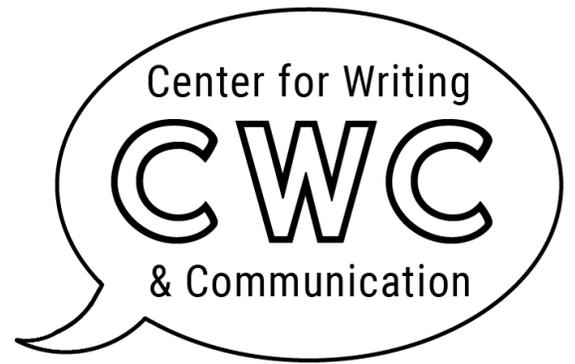
Remember ownership that is used correctly can be reversed. For example: *my mother's boat* can be reversed to read *the boat of my mother*

Question: How do I make a noun that already ends in s possessive?

Do: the animals' cages
the boys' coats
the students' homework

Don't Do: the animal's cages
the boys coats
the student homework

Possessive Forms



The Apostrophe and Possession:

Often we use an apostrophe to indicate that something owns or possesses something else.

The farmer's cows the country's problems the baby's tooth

If you are unsure whether a noun is possessive, see if the two nouns can be changed into an "owning phrase":

The farmer's cows = the cows of the farmer
The country's problems = the problems of the country
The baby's tooth = the tooth of the baby