



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 81 – -'s (your sister's name) and
of ... (the name of the book)



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-'s (your sister's name) and of ... (the name of the book)



TOM SISTER'S NAME

A

- ❖ We use -'s (apostrophe + s) mostly for people or animals:
 - EX1: **Tom's** computer isn't working. (not the computer of Tom)
 - EX2: How old are **Chris's** children? (not the children of Chris)
 - EX3: What's (= What is) **your sister's** name?
 - EX4: What's **Tom's sister's** name?
 - EX5: Be careful. Don't step on **the cat's** tail.
- ❖ You can use -'s without a noun after it:
 - EX6: This isn't my book. It's **my sister's**. (= my sister's book)
- ❖ We do not use -'s after a long group of words. So we say:
 - **my friend's mother**
but the mother **of the man we met yesterday** (not *the man we met yesterday's mother*)
- ❖ 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.

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MY SISTERS' ROOM

B

- ❖ With a singular noun we use **-'s**:
 - My **sister's** room (= her room – one sister)
 - **Mr. Carter's** house (= his house)
- ❖ With a plural noun (sisters, friends etc.) we put an apostrophe (') after **s**:
 - my **sisters'** room (= their room – two or more sisters)
 - **the Carters'** house (= their 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)
- ❖ You can use **-'s** after more than one noun:
 - **Jack and Karen's** children **Mr. and Mrs. Carter's** house

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OF

C

❖ For things, ideas etc., we normally use **of**:

- the temperature **of the water** (not the water's temperature)

- the name **of the book**

the owner **of the restaurant**

❖ We say the **beginning/end/middle of ... / the top/bottom of ... / the front/back/side of ...** :

- **the beginning of** the month (not the month's beginning)

- **the top of** the hill

the back of the car

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THE WORLD’S POPULATION

D

- ❖ You can usually use **-’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**
- ❖ We also use **-’s** for places. So you can say:
 - the city’s streets the world’s population Italy’s prime minister

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10 MINUTES’ WALK

E

❖ We use **-’s** with time words (yesterday / next week etc.):

- EX1: Do you still have **yesterday’s** newspaper?
- EX2: **Next week’s** meeting has been cancelled.

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**:

- EX3: I’ve got a **week’s holiday** starting on Monday.
- EX4: Julia has got **three weeks’ holiday**.
- EX5: I live near the station – it’s only **ten minutes’ walk**.

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TÓM TẮT

1. Để diễn tả quan hệ sở hữu của người hay con vật, chúng ta dùng dấu nháy (-’s) (*apostrophe*) sau người sở hữu. *Tom’s computer*. Nếu chủ sở hữu là số nhiều và tận cùng bằng -s, chúng ta chỉ thêm dấu nháy sau chủ sở hữu. *My sisters’ room*.
2. Với các đồ vật hay ý tưởng, chúng ta dùng “of” (của) để chỉ quan hệ sở hữu. *The temperature of the water*. Khi chủ sở hữu là người hay con vật, nhưng là một cụm từ dài, chúng ta cũng dùng “of” thay vì dấu nháy. *The mother of the man we met yesterday*.
3. Khi chủ sở hữu là các tổ chức, chúng ta có thể dùng hoặc dấu nháy (-’s) hoặc “of” *the government’s decision or the decision of the government*.
4. Với các cụm từ chỉ thời gian hoặc khoảng thời gian, chúng ta cũng có thể dùng “-s”. *Julia has got three weeks’ holiday*.