Apostrophes

We use apostrophes to show ownership or possession. In English, an apostrophe is usually placed after the final letter of a word followed by an ‘s’ to show ownership. For example:

The pencil belonging to Sarah was on the table.

Should be written:

**Sarah’s pencil was on the table**

* Proper Nouns ending in ‘s’

In general, you would add an apostrophe plus an extra ‘s’ when you would naturally pronounce an extra ‘s’ if you said the word out loud, for example:

The party belonging to James began.

Should be written:

**James’s party began**.

* For proper nouns that end in -s but are not spoken with an extra ‘s’:

Just add an apostrophe after the –s.

The cat belonging to Mrs Bridges purred.

Should be written:

**Mrs Bridges’ cat purred.**

* Plural nouns

You would add an apostrophe after the ‘s’ but you do not need to write another ‘s’, for example:

The roofs of the houses.

Should be written:

**The houses’ roofs.**

**Singular Nouns and Plural Nouns**

A singular noun is the word for a non-specific animal, place, thing or idea such as dog, station, tent, etc.

Plural nouns indicate that there is more than a single person, animal, place, thing or idea such as lions, cars or airports.