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Grammer Lee

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LESSON 9

Plural, not Possessive

Pluralizing Your Name

this Christmas card season

- **No apostrophes are needed. Ever.**

- **Most families simply add an -s.**

The Cambridges and Cornwalls wish you a warm and lovely Christmas.

- **Last names ending in -s add an -es.**

The Waleses and Armstrong-Joneses invite you to their New Year's brunch.

- **Names ending in -x, -z, -ch or -sh get an -es too.**

The Sussexes will celebrate the holidays here.

The Lopezes and Rodriguezes may visit.

It's that simple. Merry everything!

@butnotallatonce

When addressing a family or couple, don't use an apostrophe — just make the last name plural. In most cases, just add an s.

If the name ends in s, x, z, ch or sh, add -es to make it plural.

EXAMPLES:

The Hogan family → **The Hogans** *NOT* The Hogan's

The Smith family → **The Smiths** *NOT* The Smith's

The Jones family → **The Joneses** *NOT* The Jones' or Jone's

The Lopez family → **The Lopezes** *NOT* The Lopez' or Lopez's

When you sign your own card,
also skip the apostrophe:

Love, the Johnsons

Merry Christmas from the Davises

Or just use “family” to simplify:

Love, the Johnson family

Don't Forget

Correct: Merry Christmas from
the Carters

Incorrect: Merry Christmas from
the Carter's

(Apostrophes show possession —
not pluralization.)

Plural Rules from AP

Follow these guidelines in forming and using plural words:

MOST WORDS

Add s:

boys, girls, ships, villages.

WORDS ENDING IN CH, S, SH, SS, X and Z

Add es:

churches, lenses, parishes, glasses, boxes. (Monarchs is an exception.)

WORDS ENDING IN IS

Change is to es:

oases, parentheses, theses.

WORDS ENDING IN Y

If y is preceded by a consonant or qu, change y to i and add es:

armies, cities, navies, soliloquies.
Otherwise add s: donkeys, monkeys.

Plural Rules from AP Cont...

Follow these guidelines in forming and using plural words:

MOST WORDS

Do not use 's:

His speech had too many “ifs,”
“ands” and “buts.”

FIGURES

Add s:

The custom began in the 1920s.
The airline has two 727s.
Temperatures will be in the low 20s.
There were five Size 7s.

MULTIPLE LETTERS

Add s:

She knows her ABCs.
I gave him five IOUs.
Four VIPs were there.

SINGLE LETTERS

Use 's:

Mind your p's and q's.
He learned the three R's and brought home
a report card with four A's and two B's.

Commonly Confused Words

Advice vs. Advise

Advice (noun – listen for s):

A suggestion or recommendation about what someone should do.

EXAMPLES:

“She gave me good advice about studying.”

“Can you give me some advice on buying a new car?”

“The professor’s advice helped me make the right choice.”

Advise (verb – listen for z):

To give a suggestion or recommendation to someone.

EXAMPLES:

“She advised me to study harder.”

“I strongly advise you to check the reviews first.”

“The doctor advised him to rest.”

Oops in the Wild



Thank You!